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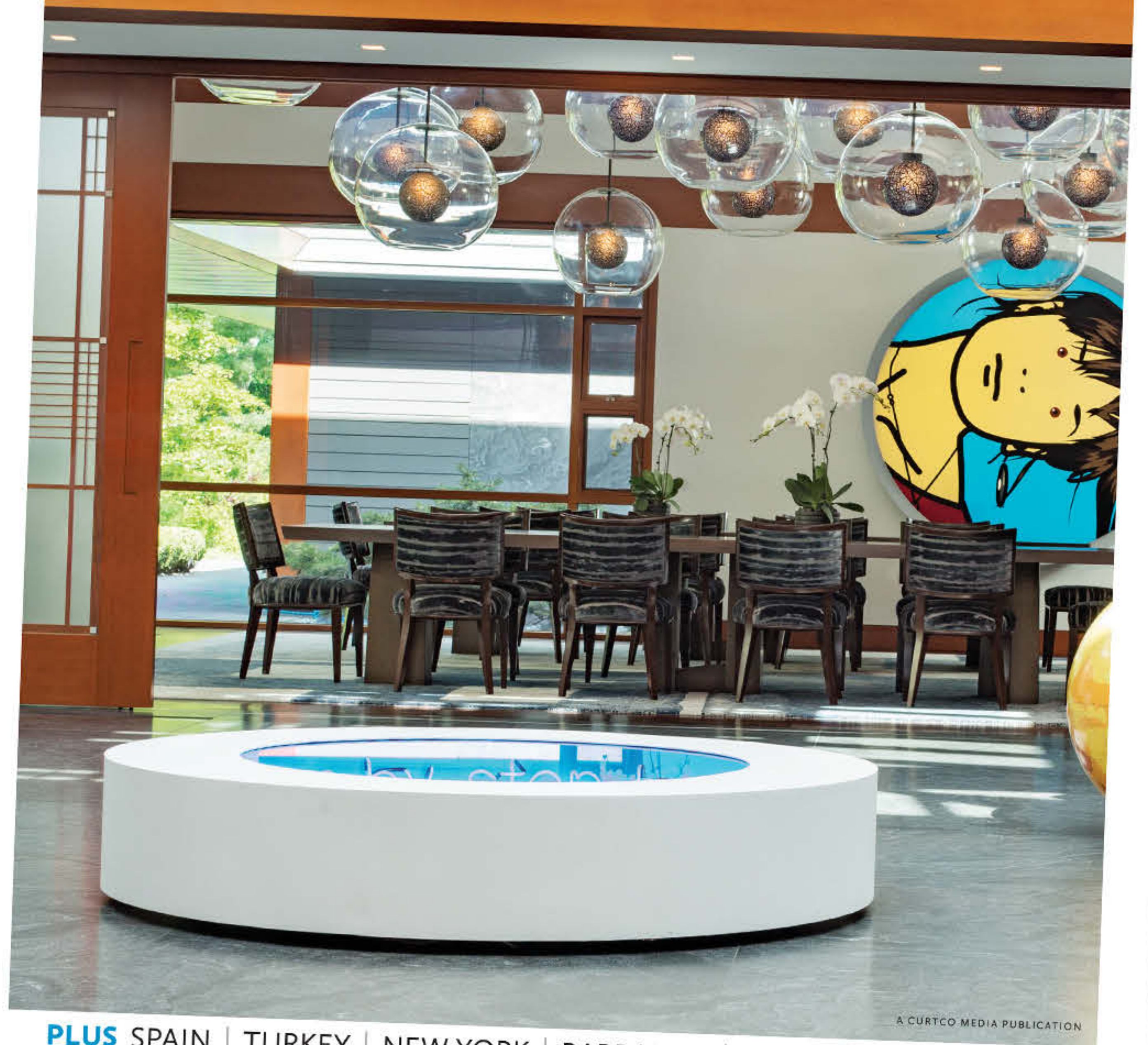
MARCH 2015

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MARCH/APRIL 2015

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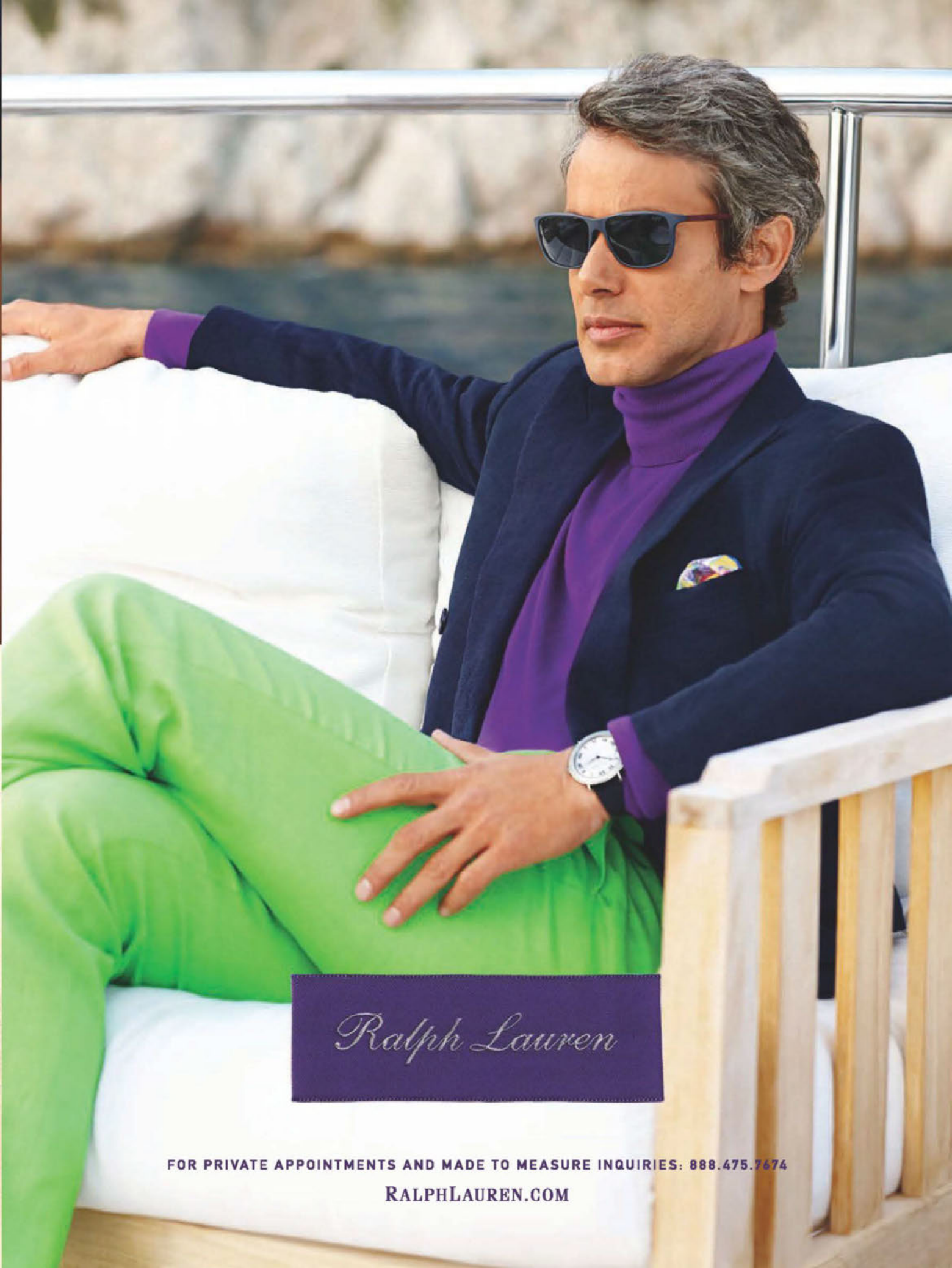
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A scenic photograph of a stone building perched on a cliff overlooking the ocean. The building has arched windows and a balcony with a person sitting on a lounge chair. A large tree is on the left, and the ocean is on the right. A purple banner with the text "Ralph Lauren" is overlaid in the center.

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FEATURES

95 **Car of the Year 2015**

Robb Report readers have crowned a champion of the 22nd annual Car of the Year competition, in which the world's 13 best new automobiles—from an electrifying Porsche to a surprisingly smooth Kia—faced off on the scenic roads of California's Napa Valley.

128 **White Heat**

Spring is in the air, bringing with it a fresh crop of breezy, lightweight menswear designs from Stefano Ricci, Brunello Cucinelli, Hermès, and more.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID ROEMER;
STYLING BY CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL

136 **Waves of Color**

With spring also comes a return to color, as reflected by these bold-hued sportswear selections from Brioni, Louis Vuitton, Kiton, and other leading brands.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID ROEMER;
STYLING BY CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL



A black and white advertisement for Dior. A male model with dark hair and a serious expression is the central figure. He is wearing a dark, pinstriped suit jacket over a light-colored, vertically striped dress shirt and a dark tie with a subtle, repeating pattern. He holds a dark leather bag with multiple straps and buckles in his right hand. The bag has the signature 'Jas Gawronski' written in white on its side. The background is composed of large, curved, metallic-looking panels that create a sense of depth and modernity. The lighting is soft, highlighting the textures of the suit and the bag.

Dior



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BY CAROLYN MEERS

ON THE COVER

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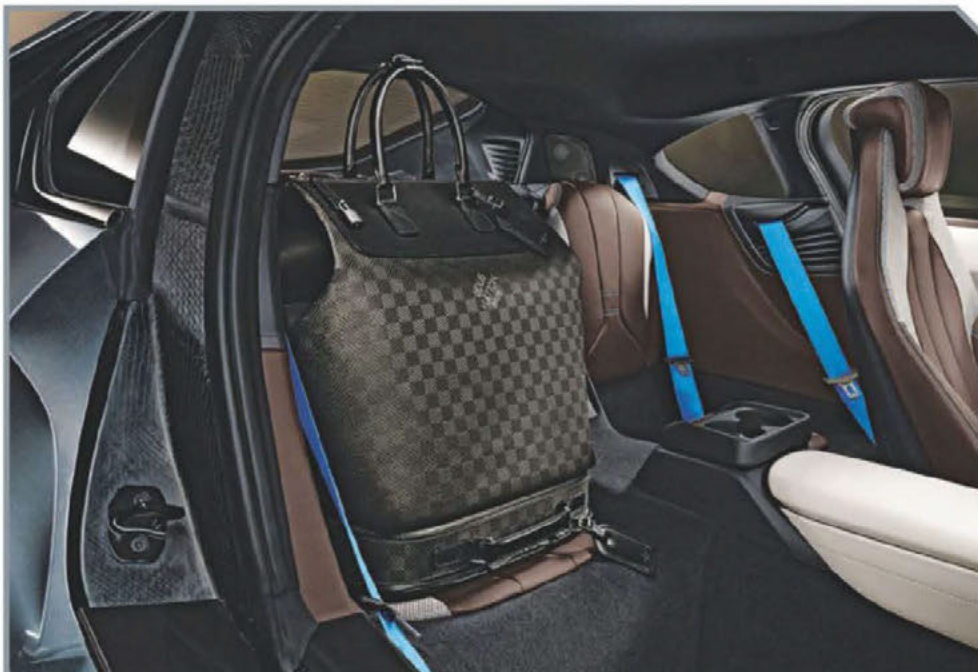
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BY LAURA BURSTEIN

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Car of the Year 2015

The online companion to our annual Car of the Year feature includes exclusive photos from the event and behind-the-scenes video coverage of all 13 competitors.

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Back in 'Bach

Maybach is making yet another comeback in the form of the Mercedes-Maybach S600, which is set to debut in April at a price of approximately \$190,000.

RobbReport.com/MaybachS600

Old Cats, New Tricks

Through its new Heritage Driving Program, Jaguar is making a number of its vintage cars available for track testing.

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Mechanics and Machinations

OUR FATES ARE held not in the stars, as Shakespeare mused, but in ourselves, and few men of destiny were more manifestly the agents of their own making and undoing than William Crapo Durant (pictured). Born in 1861, the son of a New England innkeeper possessed of prodigious charm and an even more prodigious thirst, the young Durant began with modest prospects. After his parents' marriage ended, he moved with his mother to Flint, Mich., where her father,

Henry Howland Crapo, operated a successful lumber business. Crapo had grasped early on the profitable principle of vertical integration and, in defiance of common practice, built his own sawmills and even a railroad to transport his wares.

Durant, who quit high school to go to work, was as charismatic and incautious as his father; yet he also inherited Crapo's tolerance for risk and aptitude for organizing. The combination made him an irresistible salesman and a shrewd entrepreneur. In 1885, he raised

\$2,000 to buy the manufacturer of a two-wheel cart with a spring-mounted seat and restructured the firm on his grandfather's plan. By controlling all aspects of supply and production—and plying clients with his native charm—Durant multiplied his investment a thousandfold.

The fortune he made on his horse carts, however, did not blind Durant to the possibilities inherent in the horseless version, which, by the advent of the 20th century, was crowding its equestrian counterpart off the roads. In 1904, a consortium of investors approached him about recapitalizing a small automaker that had been launched by a plumbing-parts manufacturer named David Dunbar Buick. Durant raised the money, took the company's Model B on the road—where he racked up an impressive roster of orders—and vertically integrated the business, buying up producers of axles and other parts. By 1908 he had hatched a scheme for consolidating the growing industry by bringing a variety of marques under the aegis of an umbrella corporation. He lobbied Wall Street

bankers and, in September of that year, formed General Motors with capital in excess of \$12 million. This treasury enabled him to acquire a large portfolio that included Buick, Oldsmobile, Oakland Company (later Pontiac), and—for a sum approaching \$5 million—Cadillac.

In 1910, however, GM's revenue began to fall perilously short of its expenses, and Durant struggled to find lenders to stave off bankruptcy. In the end, his most extravagant purchase proved the company's salvation: The Cadillac division's hefty profits convinced a syndicate of banks to lend \$15 million. The price of reprieve was high for Durant, whose creditors installed a new board and a new president. In 1911, when the new management discontinued the affordable Buick Model 10, which was designed to compete with Ford's Model T, Durant decided to build a car on his own.

Marketplace machinations, not mechanics, were Durant's arena of expertise, and in hiring the racecar driver Louis Chevrolet to build his new vehicle, Durant was actually arranging his conquest of GM. The low-priced Chevrolet did well, attracting both consumers and investors. With venture capital in hand, Durant offered holders of GM securities a generous swap of four or five shares of Chevrolet for one share of the larger company. The stratagem worked, and by 1916, Chevrolet owned more than half of the stock in Durant's beloved brainchild.

If the business savvy that Durant inherited from his grandfather restored him to the corporate throne, the impetuous nature he got from his father once again unseated him—this time permanently. The reinstated president at once resumed his buying spree, and GM quickly metastasized. Once more, Durant appealed to the banks for massive sums and, as share prices plunged, bought the falling stock with borrowed funds. As his personal finances crumbled, the banks—concerned about his millions of shares being dumped on the market—urged the company to purchase them, providing Durant with the money to repay his creditors and, at the same time, nullifying his influence. The ousted entrepreneur tried once more to retake the driver's seat by launching another company, but Durant Motors drove him not back into the boardroom, as he hoped, but into bankruptcy. Broke and broken, the creator of North America's automotive colossus died in 1947, after finishing his career behind the counter of a Flint hash house. **R**

BRETT ANDERSON
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Few men of destiny were more manifestly the agents of their own making and undoing than William Crapo Durant.



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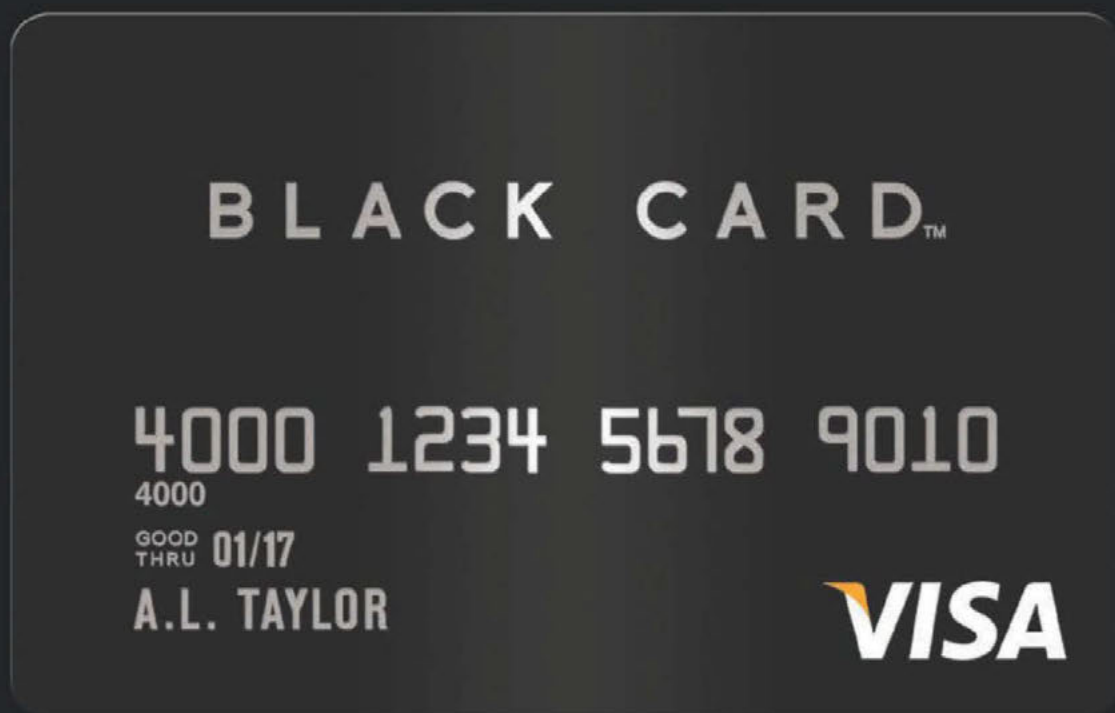
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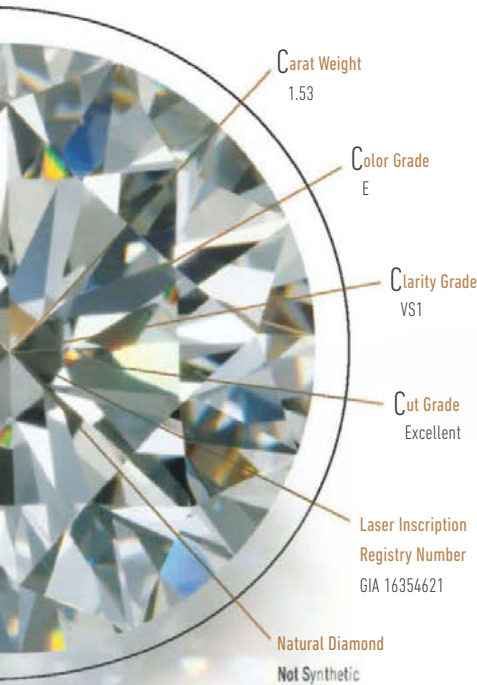
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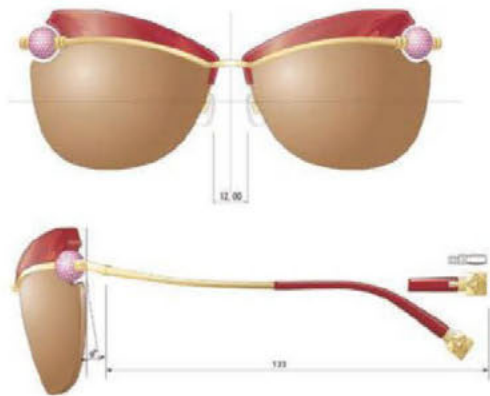
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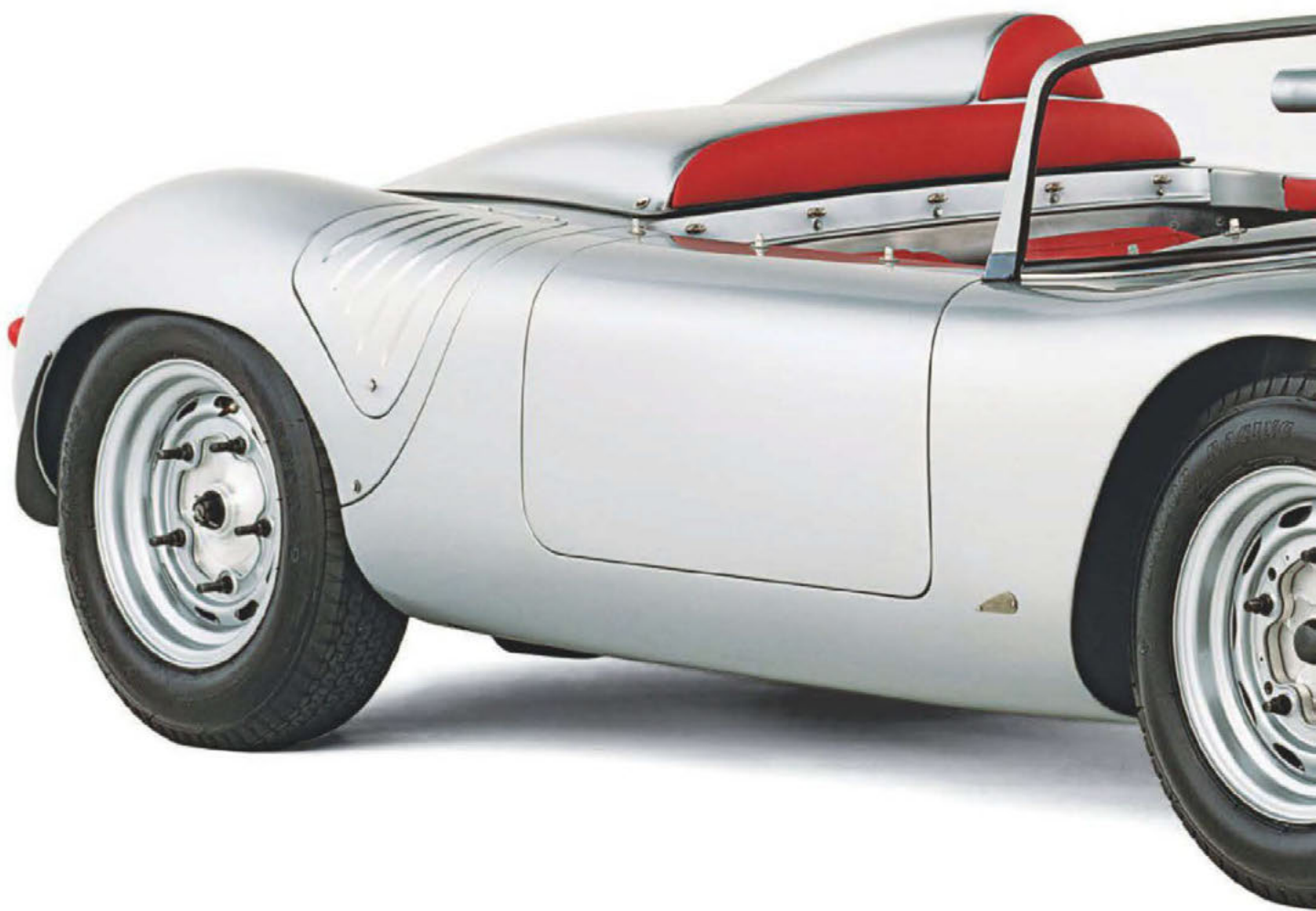
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FEROCIOUS FEATHERWEIGHT

1960 Porsche RS 60



BY THE MID-1950s, Porsche had become a force on the tracks of Europe and the United States, thanks largely to the small but mighty 550 and 550A racecars that the company built in 1955 and '56. James Dean's fatal accident in 1955 while piloting his 550 Spyder to a race in Salinas, Calif., enhanced the cars' notoriety. The 718 series that followed from 1957

to 1962 was based on the 550 platform but included a front suspension and body aerodynamics redesigned to make the cars competitive in endurance races. The 718 made its 24 Hours of Le Mans debut in 1957 but crashed and failed to finish. The following year, a 718 placed first in its class at Le Mans and third overall. It was an auspicious feat for this tiny terror powered by



LIGHT WEIGHT, SLIPPERY BODYWORK, AND A
BALANCED MID-ENGINE LAYOUT CHARACTERIZED THE
RS 60 AND THE MODELS FROM WHICH IT DERIVED.



a modest 1.5-liter, 142 hp flat-4 engine. Victories in the 1958 and 1959 European Hill Climb Championship and in the 1959 Targa Florio followed.

To comply with FIA regulations dictating frame width and windshield height, Porsche redesigned the 718 in 1960 and designated it the RS 60. The makeover also added a new double-wishbone rear suspension and

increased the engine's displacement to 1.6 liters and power output to 160 hp. In 1960, the RS 60 won the 12 Hours of Sebring, the Targa Florio, and the European Hill Climb Championship.

Porsche produced about 35 examples of the car (which was called the RS 61 in 1961). One sold at auction last year for \$2.75 million. —ROBERT ROSS

BELLA ON WHEELS

A pedal-powered Pininfarina with a prewar pedigree.



COLLABORATION BETWEEN the Italian bicycle manufacturer 43 Milano and coach-builder Pininfarina (pininfarina.com), the Pininfarina Fuoriserie pays tribute to the marque's formative years in the 1930s. Battista "Pinin" Farina, who founded his *carrozzeria* in 1930 (the family's surname was changed to Pininfarina in 1961), created custom bodywork for

Alfa Romeos, Fiats, and other elite automobiles. The design of the new bicycle, which the companies unveiled last year, draws from one of his early achievements. "One of the most iconic car models of those times was the Lancia Astura Cabriolet *aerodinamica tipo* Bocca, in 1936," says Paolo Pininfarina, the company's chairman and the grandson of Battista. "The interlaced treatment



THE FUORISERIE PAYS
TRIBUTE TO PININFARINA'S
FORMATIVE YEARS
IN THE 1930s.

of the leather on the bike's saddle and handlebars is in fact derived from the interior of this car. It's the expression of a truly outstanding artisanal skill."

The woven saddle and handlebars are the work of the Florentine tannery the Bridge, which also designed a custom leather travel bag for the bike. The Fuoriserie (which means "specially built" in Italian) also features

a hand-welded chrome-plated steel frame accented with a walnut briar-root coating, as well as brake knobs engraved with Pininfarina's logo. Pininfarina and 43 Milano will produce only 30 examples of the bicycle, **which is available naked for \$7,400 or in a Bike+ version**—equipped with an electric engine that supplements pedaling power—for \$11,000. —AYESHA KHAN



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Options shown. 1. AMC Testing Certified, 1.8-mile test track; MY15 vehicles tested. RC F with Performance Package; RS 5 with 20" Wheels; M4 with M-Double-Clutch Transmission, Adaptive M Suspension, 19" Wheels. 2. Ratings achieved using the required premium unleaded gasoline with an octane rating of 91 or higher. If premium fuel is not used, performance will decrease. 3. Available Winter 2015. ©2014 Lexus.

FRONT **R**UNNERS

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ELEMENTS OF STYLE

Creature Comforts

LOCATED ON Madison Avenue in Midtown Manhattan, the new **Tomas Maier** (tomasmaier.com) boutique offers the designer's comfortable weekend wear, including cotton T-shirts and trousers, cashmere sweaters, and suede jackets. "On the weekend, the last thing you want to think about is what to wear," says Maier, who also has shops in East Hampton, N.Y., and Palm Beach, Fla., and serves as Bottega Veneta's creative director. "These clothes feel pleasant against the skin and can easily be worn together and layered." In addition to basics that can be worn any time of the year, Maier offers seasonal items such as the calf-suede jacket (\$3,150), jersey T-shirt (\$100), and lightweight gabardine trousers (\$310) shown here. The shops also carry a range of sandals, moccasins, and beach towels. —JILL NEWMAN



MEASURING UP

MARK CHO QUICKLY recognized the attributes of his **Liverano & Liverano** suit (liverano.com). "It became like a second skin," says Cho, a cofounder of **the Armoury** (thearmoury.com), a menswear store that offers the bespoke suits at its location in Manhattan's Tribeca neighborhood and its two locations in Hong Kong. They are made by a Florentine tailor, the septuagenarian Antonio Liverano. The suits are available to order only when he is in town for trunk shows at the stores. In April, Liverano will visit the Armoury in Tribeca to take measurements and orders for suits, which start at \$7,200 and can take from six months to a year to complete. —J.N.



Top Hats

PANAMA HATS ARE making a comeback, just in time to complement the spring season's popular light-colored suits. The hats, which are woven from straw or paper fibers, were originally made in Ecuador as early as the 1700s. In the 1800s, they were sold at Panamanian ports and thus acquired their name. Then as now, a Panama hat can add a touch of elegance to any ensemble. The Italian hatmaker **Borsalino** (borsalino.com) offers some of the finest examples, including the one shown here, a short-brimmed style with a grosgrain band priced at \$190. —J.N.

TREND SPOTTING

A variety of sleek new raincoats will have you ready for spring showers.



ELEGANT

Giorgio Armani's lengthy raincoat drapes loosely on the body. armani.com



VERSATILE

Salvatore Ferragamo's roomy robe coat is comfortable and stylish. ferragamo.com



SPORTY

With leather trim, Valentino's boxy raincoat has a casual edge. valentino.com

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Brief Statement

FEATURING A LOCK made of elm burl wood, the **Ralph Lauren** matte alligator briefcase (ralphlauren.com) is the designer's latest signature accessory. The lock was inspired by the type of wood used for accents in the interiors of vintage cars, including some of those in Lauren's famous collection. The briefcase, which is priced at \$21,000, is stained by hand with beeswax to give it a deep luster and a vintage look and feel. —J.N.



Driving Dunhill

UNDER THE guidance of its new creative director, John Ray, the British brand **Dunhill** (dunhill.com) is undergoing a reinvention of sorts. Ray, a veteran of Gucci under Tom Ford, has introduced a spring collection that features long, shapely jackets inspired by suits from the early 20th century. The brand's red silk-and-linen double-breasted herringbone jacket (\$2,500) is shown here with the leather Duke bag (\$5,900), a roomy weekend carryall that also harks back to the early 20th century, when Dunhill supplied motorists with leather accessories to take on the road.

—PAIGE REDDINGER



STEP INTO SPRING

WITH SPRING COMES lighter-weight, less formal footwear that pairs equally well with suits or casual trousers. Several brands are offering a classic woven-leather shoe in a variety of updated styles. The **A. Testoni** antique kangaroo derby and loafer (testoni.com) feature goatskin lining and kangaroo leather that is handwoven to create a slightly worn, comfortable look suiting the season's relaxed mood. —J.N.



TOP: LISA CHARLES WATSON; STYLING BY CHARLES W. BUNGARDNER

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REFINED DESIGNS

Positively Elegant

BY PAIRING GEOMETRIC forms with negative space, these gold jewelry designs display a sleek, modern quality. The pieces shown here are subtle enough to be worn every day, but their designs still stand out. From left: 18-karat-gold lace choker with diamonds from **Yossi Harari** (\$6,335, yossiharari.com), gold collar with Gemfields Zambian emeralds and diamonds from **Jemma Wynne** (\$12,600, jemmawynne.com), gold-and-diamond Pierced Armor ring (\$5,200) and Hexagon Slice ring (\$6,000) from **Karma El Khalil** (karmaelkhalil.com), diamond-and-gold ring set with a pearl from **Suel** (\$3,870, sueljewelry.com), and 18-karat-rose-gold ring set with a Champagne diamond from **Eva Fehren** (\$2,530, evafehren.com). —JILL NEWMAN


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MARK OF GREATNESS

THE BAROQUE ARCHITECTURE and precious stones of the New Palace of Sanssouci—built during the 1740s by the Prussian king Frederick the Great—informs the design of the **Graf von Faber-Castell Sanssouci Potsdam 2015 Pen of the Year** (graf-von-faber-castell.us). The writing instrument's barrel is set with four slats of green serpentine, a stone used for some of the palace's floor inlays. It is available as a rollerball or fountain pen in two versions. The standard model (shown, \$4,000 to \$4,500) features a platinum-plated barrel and a faceted Russian quartz atop the cap; the cap of the 24-karat-gold-plated Special Edition (\$9,000 to \$9,500) is topped by a rare chrysoprase, which was Frederick the Great's favorite stone. —JOHN LYON



Art Workings

BUILT TO CELEBRATE 20 years of the Lange 1 model, the new **A. Lange & Söhne Lange 1 Tourbillon Handwerkskunst** (alange-soehne.com) displays many of the underlying qualities that have made the brand a collector favorite since its relaunch in 1990. Most obvious is the \$221,700 watch's top-level finishing, specifically the mirror-polished surface of the tourbillon cock and the chamfered edges of the aperture on the dial side. The movement, which is visible through the back crystal, riffs on traditional German styling with an unusual sunray-finished three-quarter plate and fully engraved bridging and access plates. The brand's distinctive tourbillon braking system can stop the cage, enabling setting to the second. —JAMES D. MALCOLMSON

Jasper Report



ALWAYS FOND OF bold, colorful stones, the jewelry designer **Tamara Comolli** (tamaracomolli.com) traveled from her home base in Germany to Madagascar to source the jasper used in her brand's Ocean Jasper bracelets (two models shown here), priced from \$6,000 to \$9,000. She found the stones, which bear naturally formed patterns and colors, while searching the sand at low tide on a remote part of the island. The jasper, she explains, was formed by the compression of several different minerals over millions of years. She favors what are known as Picasso jasper and landscape jasper, which display painterly patterns. "Each stone is completely different," says Comolli, "and they have this bohemian yet chic quality that I love." —J.N.



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MAGNIFICENT MACHINES

A Porsche Plus

THOUGH IT WENT out of production less than a decade ago, the Porsche Carrera GT has already become a collectible, in part because during its run from 2004 to 2007 only 1,270 examples were built. Rarer still is the **Gemballa Mirage GT Carbon Edition** (gemballa.us), a car based on the Carrera GT that offers even greater performance. Gemballa, a German automobile manufacturer that makes exclusive sports cars developed from the Porsche and McLaren model ranges, plans to build only 25 Mirage

GT vehicles in any specification, including the Carbon Edition. The Carbon Edition's \$300,000 base price does not include the cost of the Porsche with which Gemballa begins the building process. The hood, fenders, roof air intake, side skirts, rear diffuser, and most other body parts are rendered in carbon fiber and reshaped for improved aerodynamics, as assessed by wind-tunnel testing. Gemballa also increases the V-10 engine's output to 670 hp, giving the car a top speed of more than 208 mph. —ROBERT ROSS



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**DINING IN**

The salon's dining table matches the floor's marquetry.

**DEEP SEE**

A compact sub from the Netherlands.

Suitable as a superyacht accessory and light and compact enough to be towed behind a full-sized SUV, the **U-Boat Worx HP Sport Sub 2** (uboworx.com) is the latest offering from the Dutch submersible manufacturer. The sub weighs just 4,850 pounds and is about 9.4 feet long, 7.7 feet wide, and just under 4.5 feet tall—small enough to fit in most tender garages. Propelled by six electric thrusters, the sub can carry a pilot and passenger at a top speed of 2 knots and to a depth of 328 feet. It can remain underwater for as long as six hours. The price is \$1.35 million, and the company expects to begin deliveries this fall. —L.B.

Long-Winded

WHEN IT LAUNCHED last year, *Silver Wind* became the first hull in the **Isa Yachts 140 Sport** series (isayachts.com). According to the Italian shipyard, it also became the first yacht in the world to be equipped with both water jets and a hybrid propulsion system. With this combination, the three-deck planing yacht can cruise efficiently and quietly while retaining its ability to travel at high speeds. When powered by its two diesel engines, *Silver Wind* can reach 32 knots. In electric mode, the top speed is 8 knots, but the range is 2,600 nautical miles (versus 540 nautical miles at 26 knots under diesel power). *Silver Wind* accommodates eight passengers in four cabins. The exterior design, by Andrea Vallicelli, is distinguished by diagonal lines that run prominently from the sundeck to the stern, which includes a large swimming platform. The interior is by Nuvolari & Lenard and features walnut, high-gloss ebony, and satin rosewood. —LARRY BEAN



MADE FOR AMERICA

THE RECENTLY LAUNCHED first U.S. edition of the **Arcadia 85** from Italy's Arcadia Yachts (arcadiayachts.it) includes the European model's signature feature: 430 square feet of solar panels incorporated into the superstructure. The panels generate power for the refrigerator, lights, and other electrical amenities. Propulsion is provided by twin diesel engines that enable a maximum speed of 18.5 knots and a range of 850 nautical miles when cruising at 12 knots. The U.S. edition's distinguishing features include enhanced air-conditioning, an open galley, a VIP cabin with a dressing area, and, in the guest-cabin corridor, a closet containing a washing machine and dryer. —L.B.



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Electric-Plane Buzz

TAKING ANOTHER STEP toward series production of the first all-electric aircraft, **Airbus** (airbus.com) has formed a partnership with the turboprop manufacturer **Daher-Socata** (tbm.aero) to continue developing the plane known as the E-Fan 2.0. The contract calls for Daher-Socata to work on the plane's entire development, including its electric engine and batteries, and to eventually usher it through the European certification process. Last summer, Airbus presented the 1,100-pound, two-seat E-Fan 2.0 prototype at England's Farnborough International Airshow. The batteries currently enable the plane to remain airborne for only an hour, making it suitable for pilot training. —MICHELLE SEATON

Lone Star Surf



THE ALL-YOU-CAN-FLY MEMBERSHIP flight service **Surf Air** (surfair.com) continues to add to its fleet of eight-seat Pilatus PC-12 turboprops and expand its territory beyond Los Angeles and Silicon Valley. According to its CEO, Jeff Potter, the Santa Monica, Calif.-based company plans to move into Texas by the middle of this year, and then into Florida. Last year, Surf Air's service expanded to Las Vegas, Lake Tahoe, and most recently Oakland (in December) and Carlsbad, Calif. (in November). The company has begun taking deliveries of 15 new PC-12s, and it has options to purchase 50 more. —M.S.



NEW WAVE

THE 4-FOOT-TALL electrostatic panel on the **MartinLogan Neolith** loudspeaker (martinlogan.com) has a radiating surface of more than 1,000 square inches, making it the company's largest. MartinLogan speakers use these screenlike transducers instead of traditional drivers to produce exceptional levels of musical realism. The Neolith's panel emits extremely low-distortion sound waves in the mid- and high-frequency ranges—from about 250 Hz to 22 kHz. A dual-driver bass unit located in the base of each speaker delivers a hefty low-frequency response, an audio characteristic lacking in most electrostatic designs. Each Neolith pair is made to order and priced from about \$80,000. —BAILEY S. BARNARD

A black and white photograph capturing a moment in a tailor's workshop. A male mannequin, shirtless and wearing white briefs, stands centrally, his back to the camera. He is being measured by four women, presumably tailors, dressed in dark suits with white collared shirts. One tailor stands behind him, adjusting a measuring tape around his waist. Another is to his right, measuring his thigh. Two others are in the foreground, one measuring his leg and the other his arm. The workshop environment is visible in the background, with shelves holding various items and a bright light source on the right. The entire image is framed by a dashed red line. In the top left corner, the text '1623163.it' is written vertically. In the top right corner, there is a small red scissors icon. At the bottom center, the brand name 'ISAI A' is written in large, bold, red capital letters, with 'NAPOLI' in smaller red capital letters directly beneath it. A red stylized signature or logo is positioned at the very bottom center.

A black and white photograph capturing a moment in a tailor's workshop. A male mannequin, shirtless and wearing white briefs, stands centrally, his back to the camera. He is being measured by four women, presumably tailors, dressed in dark suits with white collared shirts. One tailor stands behind him, adjusting a measuring tape around his waist. Another is to his right, measuring his thigh. Two others are in the foreground, one measuring his leg and the other his arm. The workshop environment is visible in the background, with shelves holding various items and a bright light source on the right. The entire image is framed by a dashed red border. In the top left corner, the text '1623163.it' is written vertically. In the top right corner, there is a small red icon of a pair of scissors. At the bottom center, the brand name 'ISAI A' is written in large, bold, red capital letters, with 'NAPOLI' in smaller red capital letters directly beneath it. A red stylized logo, resembling a 'K' or a signature, is positioned at the very bottom center.



GRAND OPENING

State of Mind

BINTAN ISLAND'S powder-white sands and gently lapping waves have long lured Singaporeans looking for a reprieve from the frenetic pace in the nearby city-state. In December, the Indonesian island—which is located 35 minutes by helicopter from Singapore—became all the more alluring with the opening of the **Sanchaya** (thesanchaya.com), a 30-room retreat set on 23 acres in the northern Lagoi Bay development. The resort's villas and suites combine antique furnishings with an eclectic collection of Asian artifacts, including Vietnamese ceramics and Indonesian textiles. The blend of regional influences extends to a spa with its own garden of healing herbs, and a restaurant that serves Bangkok-style street food. Guests can also enjoy fine cheeses at Sanchaya's *fromagerie*, read a rare tome in the library, and, of course, relax on the resort's palm-fringed beach. —DANIEL SCHEFFLER

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GRAND
OPENING

Short and Sweet



A WELCOME DEPARTURE from the towering skyscrapers of Dubai's ever-changing skyline, the new **Four Seasons Resort Dubai at Jumeirah Beach** (fourseasons.com) is a palatial yet unpretentious hideaway set in the Jumeirah residential neighborhood. The five-story property—Four Seasons' first hotel in the United Arab Emirates—opened in November with 188 guest rooms and 49 suites marked by stylishly serene interiors. Dubai's trademark excess makes an appearance in the form of a mosque-like domed lobby and ornate archways and golden details throughout the public areas, which include 10 dining venues (two run by celebrity chefs). The property also features a private beach and a 7,600-square-foot spa. —MAGGIE PARKER



JET SET

The new Italian Jetaway experience from **Baglioni Hotels** (baglionihotels.com) is sending travelers on an exclusive tour of the brand's home country. Launched in February, the bespoke trips aboard a four-passenger Cessna Citation Mustang offer quick access to Baglioni's five hotels in Rome, Milan, Florence, Venice, and Punta



Ala. While on the ground, guests stay in top suites—such as the three-bedroom Roman Penthouse at the Regina Hotel Baglioni in Rome and the newly renovated San Giorgio Terrace Suite at the Luna Baglioni in Venice—and enjoy special-access experiences that might include a private viewing of the Sistine Chapel. Journeys are priced from about \$6,200 per flight, excluding the cost of accommodations.

—JACKIE CARADONIO

GRAND
OPENINGPROVENÇAL
PROVENANCE

S ET WITHIN THE footprint of a former sheep farm, **Domaine de Manville** (domainedemanville.fr) opened in June amid the ruined castles and jasmine-scented hills of Les Baux de Provence in the South of France. Restored stone walls and centuries-old plane trees present a medieval backdrop for such modern luxuries as a spa (where treatments incorporate local pine and verbena) and an 18-hole golf course. Guests can choose from 30 rooms and suites adorned with limed oak floors and dark lacquered woods, or nine red-roofed villas with private swimming pools. In the restaurant, a Mediterranean menu highlights produce from Provence, veal from Corrèze, and honey from de Manville's 100-acre estate. —KAREN CAKEBREAD

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GRAND OPENING | **Cool Chile**

SANTIAGO'S BARRIO LASTARRIA neighborhood has long been a home to the Chilean capital's thriving population of artists and entertainers. In October the bohemian enclave between Parque Forestal and the Gabriela Mistral Cultural Center welcomed its first upscale hotel with the debut of the **Singular Santiago** (thesingular.com). Interiors of the 62-room property draw from Lastarria's traditional neoclassical roots while honoring its contemporary cultural scene with more than 1,000 framed works of art. At the rooftop swimming pool, pisco sours are served with views of San Cristóbal Hill, while in the French-Chilean restaurant, seasonal ingredients such as amaranth and sea asparagus add local flavor to lamb and seafood specialties. —EILEEN SMITH

HIGH SEASON

New heli-ski experiences take flight across the United States.

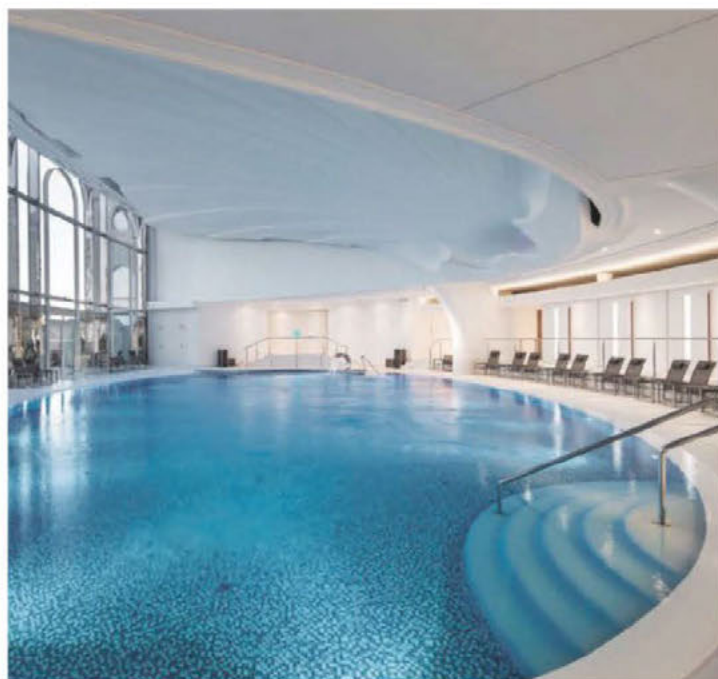
TRUE GEM ♦ This month, **Ruby Mountains Heli-Experience** (helicopterskiing.com) will debut a solar-powered yurt—accessible only by helicopter, skis, or snowcat—in the mountains of northeastern Nevada.

UP NORTH ♦ Alaska's Winterlake Lodge opened up access to more than 1 million acres in the Tordrillo Mountains in February. New all-inclusive packages are led by the outfitter **Tordrillo North** (tordrillonorth.com).

ON THE RANGE ♦ In November, Utah's **Waldorf Astoria Park City** (waldorfastoria.com) launched the Wasatch Extreme experience, a two-night heli-skiing adventure that includes après-ski indulgences. —J.C.

IN TREATMENT

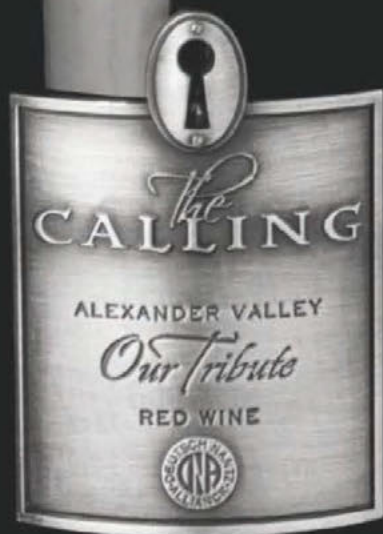
MONTE CARLO'S OLDEST spa completed a head-to-toe makeover of its own in November. The **Thermes Marins Monte-Carlo** (thermesmarinsmontecarlo.com), which first debuted above Port Hercule in 1895, reopened following an eight-month transformation that added nine treatment rooms, a sauna-and-hammam complex, and Europe's first cryotherapy facility. Innovative wellness programs curated by more than 28 specialists include such therapies as the 60-minute Human Tecar Reset (which claims to increase metabolism with the use of radio waves) and the 30-minute Reneve Mesopor (employing electronically charged applicators to minimize wrinkles). Before and after treatments, visitors can soak in the renovated saltwater swimming pool beneath a ceiling shaped like a giant seashell and dine on healthy Mediterranean cuisine at L'Hirondelle. For guests of the neighboring Hôtel Hermitage, the spa added a new VIP entrance, located just off the hotel lobby. —TARA LAMONT-DJITE



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Joy Story


MANY REMARKABLE developments have occurred in the winery where the winemaker Chris Carpenter carefully crafts Lokoya and Cardinale, two of Napa Valley's best-loved red wines. Though the vineyards—and hence the wines—are different, his goal for both remains the same: to allow the places and climate to tell the unique story of each vintage. This philosophy he passed on to his protégé, Laura Díaz Muñoz, who has since taken on the role of winemaker at Galerie, a new label that produces expressions of Sauvignon Blanc and Cabernet Sauvignon from Napa Valley and Knights Valley. A native of Spain, Muñoz has a rare gift for rendering white wines. The **Galerie 2013 Sauvignon Blanc Naissance Napa Valley** (\$30, galeriewines.com) presents a joyous infusion of ripe peach, loquat, and honeysuckle invigorated by an undercurrent of citrus acidity. —BRETT ANDERSON

Good Neighbors

LOCATION IS EVERYTHING, as realtors are wont to declare—and nowhere is this truism truer than in the wine industry. Erika Ratti, who purchased 170 acres of land near the Tuscan village of Monteverdi Marittimo, understood the importance of locale when she selected the land that would become Tenuta Sette Ciel. Her son, Ambrogio Cremona Ratti, who now serves as the estate's owner and brand ambassador, is the beneficiary of her prescience: The estate's neighbors include Ornellaia, Guado al Tasso, and Tenuta San Guido, the home of Sassicaia. A vintner could ask for no better company, and the vineyard's elite environs inform the flavors and textures of the **Tenuta Sette Ciel 2009 Scipio Toscana** (\$112, tenutasettecieli.com). This 100 percent Cabernet Franc exudes aromas of blueberry, blackberry, and bittersweet chocolate, while on the palate, leather, cinnamon, allspice, and sweet oregano precede the prolonged finish. —B.A.



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Wicked Brew



THE **Akma** cold-drip coffee brewer (\$5,200, dutch-lab.com) is formidable to behold. Created by the South Korean design studio Dutch Lab, and christened with the Korean word for “devil,” Akma is constructed with a steampunk-style framework of dark aluminum panels, brass piping, and conduits that rise more than 3 feet high. As with most cold-brew coffee systems, the technology is simple and gravity powered: Water slowly drips from its 3,000 mL borosilicate glass tank through three flasks of ground beans, delivering a concentrated, low-acid brew to the vessels at the machine’s base. Cold-brew drinkers usually dilute the concentrate with water—just as Americano drinkers dilute a shot of espresso—or milk, which yields an especially velvety coffee. From start to finish, the process takes several hours; but the severe beauty of the machine gives devotees much to admire during this devilishly long wait.

—CAROLYN MEERS



Keys to the Cellar

CHRISTIAN NAVARRO OF Wally’s Wine & Spirits has long advised some of the United States’ leading wine collectors. But many of the greatest bottles from Wally’s deep cellars never showed up on the shelves. Now Navarro has a showcase for them: the new **Wally’s Beverly Hills** vinoteca (wallysbeverlyhills.com). There are more than 3,800 labels (and more than 30,000 bottles) on display, as well as a wine vault stuffed with fabled old Bordeaux, Burgundies, and California Cabernets. Patrons can drink about 130 of these treasures by the glass, in Riedel stemware, at communal tables topped with slabs of white Carrara marble. The menu includes a wide selection of cheeses, salumi, caviar, and chocolate, as well as such enticing dishes as an elegant bouillabaisse (shown) and, for those big reds, a rib eye for two. —ELIZABETH BLAKE

A HEARTY TOAST

POSSIBLY THE OLDEST distillery in the United States, Michter’s can trace its history back to 1753—a lengthy legacy that might suggest that the company perfected the country’s native spirit with its flagship US*1 Small Batch Bourbon. But Willie Pratt and Pamela Heilmann, respectively the master distiller and distiller, have taken the state of their art one step further with **Michter’s US*1 Toasted Barrel Finish Bourbon** (\$48, michters.com), a limited-edition variation that is aged a minimum of 8 years in charred white-oak barrels then finished in gently toasted ones. Its 91.4-proof strength is softened by lemonwood, cherries, oak, and a touch of wet grass. —RICHARD CARLETON HACKER **R**





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AQUA EXPEDITIONS OPENS UP THE TRADITIONS OF THE MEKONG RIVER.

IT IS STILL EARLY MORNING, but the crowd in Cái Bè, Vietnam, already appears to be winding down for the day. Fishermen recline in their vessels, shading themselves from the climbing sun and swinging in makeshift hammocks. Women in bamboo hats helm boats filled with bananas, pineapples, dumplings,





❖
Launched in October, the 20-suite *Aqua Mekong* is making waves on the fabled waterway.
❖



and coconuts while taking inventory of their earnings from the morning market. The floating village, tucked into the southern tip of the Mekong River, gently sways in a synchronized wave.

A vital lifeline running through the Asian continent, the Mekong River winds from the Tibetan Plateau in the north to Vietnam's Mekong Delta region in the south. The chocolate milk-colored waterway has served as a commercial and social thoroughfare for thousands of years, a fact reflected in remote villages where traditional red and blue boats bob next to floating gas stations and waterfront souvenir shops. More recently—as of late last year—a new and thoroughly



modern vessel is adding to the mix on the river, promising to open up the marvels of the Mekong for luxury-minded travelers.

Launched in October, the 20-suite *Aqua Mekong* is the third riverboat from the Singapore-based Aqua Expeditions, whose other two vessels ply the Peruvian Amazon. A stark contrast to the barnacled boats with which it shares the river, *Aqua Mekong* is

a sleek and stunning cruiser made of black steel and polished wood. Suites feature floor-to-ceiling windows and spacious slate bathrooms, while public areas include a sundeck, a plunge pool, a spa, a game room, and a screening room. In the restaurant, the Michelin-starred chef David Thompson—known for his Nahm restaurant in Bangkok—serves a rotation of regional cuisines, from flatbread and risotto to vegetable dumplings and spicy pho.

Aqua Mekong travels from Siem Reap, Cambodia, to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and back, with four- and seven-night itineraries priced from about \$4,000 per person. Curated excursions along the way focus on destinations and experiences unique to this corner of Southeast Asia. “I wanted authenticity,” says Francesco Galli Zugaro, founder and CEO of Aqua Expeditions. “We visit places only visited by a select few. It is all about life on the water.”

Galli Zugaro explored the Mekong and its tributaries for several weeks during the 10 months that *Aqua Mekong* was under construction, selecting traditional Khmer villages, ancient Buddhist temples, and nature reserves for the cruises’ daily excursions by foot, bicycle, tuk-tuk, and skiff. While the custom-designed skiffs provide an opportunity to experience the river like a local—with trips to Cái Bè and several other villages along the route—the two-wheeled expeditions prove the most immersive.

In the remote Cambodian village of Preah Prosop, *Aqua Mekong*’s passengers pedal through neon stretches of grass dotted with hot-pink lotus blossoms to another marketplace, this one planted firmly on land. Piles of fish and bags of rice spill over next to stalls selling coconut milk, chilies, and lemon grass, while *rom kbach* music blares in the background. Past the village, the lightly paved road turns to dirt, leading to a jungle-shrouded Buddhist temple. Dancing *apsaras*, gilded lions, and protective *garudas* wedge into every cornice and cranny of its magnificent façade, behind which the mighty Mekong surges on.

—JACKIE CARADONIO

Aqua Expeditions, 866.603.3687,
aquaexpeditions.com

A full-page fashion advertisement featuring a man with curly brown hair and a light beard, looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a dark green tuxedo jacket with a black satin lapel and a light green button-down shirt. He stands in a lush jungle setting with large green palm fronds and some reddish plants in the foreground. The brand name 'BOGLIOLI' is printed in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image, with 'MILANO' in smaller white capital letters below it.

BOGLIOLI

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Vanishing Spirit

GLENMORANGIE'S LATEST LIMITED-EDITION WHISKY
BEGAN TO DISAPPEAR EVEN BEFORE ITS RELEASE.

IN 1994, Bill Lumsden, the director of distilling, whisky creation, and whisky stocks for Glenmorangie, experimented with further aging already-matured single malts in barrels other than traditional bourbon and sherry casks. The enhanced, complex whiskies that his endeavors have since yielded place this Highland distillery at the forefront of innovation in an industry celebrated for its steadfast traditions.

Yet as singular as these single malts are, Lumsden occasionally comes across a spirit whose exceptional characteristics inspire him to nurture it to become something more extraordinary still. Such was the case with Pride 1981, which was aged in ex-bourbon barrels and finished, in part, in Château d'Yquem Sauternes casks to produce a 29-year-old limited-edition whisky that ultimately became *Robb Report's*

Best of the Best spirit in 2012.

More recently, Lumsden has released a second single malt worthy of that honor: Pride 1978. This rarity spent its first 19 years aging in first-fill ex-bourbon barrels, which produced, in Lumsden's words, "a very classic, fleshy, full-bodied Glenmorangie." Its character convinced him that he should further shape this remarkable whisky.

Lumsden obtained six 2-year-old barriques from one of the three premier Grand Cru vineyards in the Pauillac appellation of Bordeaux. After filling the casks with the 19-year-old Glenmorangie, he allowed them to age for another 15 years, making this whisky's finishing process the longest to date at Glenmorangie. In fact, he was concerned that the regimen might be too drastic. "Toward the end of its finishing life," he recalls, "it was imperative that I sample the whisky at least every six months to check

that the flavor did not go over the top."

In 2012, Lumsden felt that Pride 1978 had reached its point of perfection; he did not want to risk drawing any more tannin from the French oak, which might have compromised the whisky's flavors. Indeed, after 34 years in barrel, this spirit's only flaw was its scarcity: An undetected leak left only five barriques intact—just enough whisky to fill 700 Laurence Brabant–designed Baccarat 1-liter decanters, 250 of which have been reserved for the United States. With a cask strength of 94.8 proof, the bronze-gold whisky is redolent of honey mingled with hints of curry and mint, as well as an essence of mossy river stones. Unlike the more heavily structured Pride 1981, Pride 1978 begins firmly on the palate but gradually dissolves into delicate harmonies. Housed in an exquisite hardwood case, each sculptural decanter is priced at \$5,800 and accompanied by a signed and numbered print by the London artist Idris Khan titled, appropriately enough, *Disappearing Casks*.

—RICHARD CARLETON HACKER

Glenmorangie, glenmorangie.com



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The Venturer Small Seconds is part of the latest collection of timepieces from H. Moser & Cie.
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Economy of Movements

NEW OWNERSHIP BRINGS FRESH IDEAS AND SHARED TECHNICAL RESOURCES TO H. MOSER & CIE.

“WHEN WE FIRST looked at H. Moser & Cie., we said to ourselves: ‘No way. This brand is losing so much money,’” recalls Edouard Meylan, who—together with his father, George-Henri (formerly the CEO of Audemars Piguet), and two brothers—assumed control of the troubled Swiss-German watch company in 2012. The family group, which also purchased the avant-garde watchmaker Hautlence, hopes to use the resulting economies of scale and renewed focus to tackle many of the challenges common to small watch companies in today’s industry.

H. Moser, which is based in Schaffhausen, Switzerland, reestablished itself in 2005 with a clean and elegant line of state-of-the-art timepieces that were ahead of their time. The perpetual calendar that the company introduced possessed a highly

sophisticated movement and an ingeniously subtle design that exemplified the promise of the brand. Yet advantage proved a shortcoming: In its rush to commercialize the product, Moser fell far behind on deliveries, and of the watches that did make it to the market, as many as 50 percent came back to the company with problems.

“With a product that sophisticated—326 components—you need at least three to five years of development time,” observes Meylan. “We spent the first year understanding the brand and fixing as many problems—like the perpetual—as possible.” Meylan’s team re-engineered over 40 components of the perpetual calendar, improving its reliability and cutting assembly time in half. In an effort to streamline its resources, Moser shares its engineering talent with Hautlence. “There are some amazing people out there,” Meylan says.

“But they are very difficult for a small brand to afford. We try to share these experts.”

The brand’s design sensibilities have also evolved—albeit subtly. The original models, which bore many names but shared a very similar aesthetic, are now grouped together in a single collection called Endeavor. A new collection, Venturer, which appeared last year, features a more detailed and modern-proportioned case. Future plans include product expansions to add to the brand’s versatility without compromising its basic personality. “Moser has always produced beautiful products,” notes Meylan, “but in the past, they were very strict and very traditional—perhaps too close to the German style. We have to find our own way.”

—JAMES D. MALCOLMSON

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Eminent Domaine

A ONE-OF-A-KIND CORSICAN RETREAT INTRODUCES A NOVEL GOLF EXPERIENCE.

EVEN AMONG the many villa and farmhouse getaways in southern Europe, Domaine de Murtoli stands apart. The resort, which opened 20 years ago on the mountainous French island of Corsica, offers an incomparable Mediterranean countryside experience to its few guests, who stay in 17 homesteads scattered throughout the 6,000-acre property. The residences—converted shepherd's huts dating from the 16th and 17th centuries—epitomize rustic luxury with open fireplaces, oversize stone sinks, tiled and chestnut floors, and La Cornue cookers. Guests can lounge by their stone-lined swimming pools (all but one of the villas have them), go horseback riding on rugged coastal trails, organize hunts for wild boar and duck, or make for one of the beaches and aquamarine coves that stretch for six miles along Corsica's southwestern shore.

Given Domaine de Murtoli's one-of-a-kind setting, the property's latest amenity—a multidimensional golf course designed by

Kyle Philips—is a suitably singular creation. The course, which can be played clockwise or counterclockwise and in 47 different tee-to-green combinations, harks back to the origins of golf. “In the early years of the game, there was not a standard number of holes or par,” explains Philips, the California-based designer behind Kingsbarns in Scotland and several other highly acclaimed layouts. “At its core, golf is about shot making and competition among friends, not about par.”

Murtoli's owners originally envisaged a six-hole course—the number of championship-level holes the allotted space could accommodate—but Philips proposed an alternative. “I suggested a course that was more dynamic,” he says, “a course that allowed players to play over the grounds from a variety of angles.”

The finished product, which made its debut last April, certainly does not lack for variety. Routed through a valley dense with mature vegetation and surrounded by

Guests at Domaine de Murtoli—a 6,000-acre resort with just 17 homesteads—have 47 different ways to play the property's new Kyle Philips course.



farming tracts, Philips's course features beautifully constructed green complexes, meandering creeks, elevation changes, and sweeping views of the island's coastline and soaring saw-toothed mountains. Holes are oriented so as to be enjoyed from multiple directions, approaches, and tee boxes, with lengths ranging from about 100 to 500 yards. Among its many combinations, the layout can be played as a par-31 nine-hole course, a par-44 12-hole course, and a par-67 18-hole course.

The freedom afforded to golfers at Domaine de Murtoli is a direct reflection of the property's exclusivity. “Murtoli has a limited number of guests who tend to stay for several weeks at a time,” Philips says. “As there are many days where there are just a few guests playing golf, I saw this as an opportunity to create several courses within a course.” —FARHAD HEYDARI

Domaine de Murtoli, +33.4.95.71.69.24, murtoli.com

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Three-Wheeled Thriller

POLARIS LAUNCHES THE SLINGSHOT, ITS HIGH-POWERED TAKE ON THE TRIKE.

THE TRIKE has come a long way since 1885, when Karl Benz introduced what is widely considered the first automobile, the three-wheeled, 0.75 hp Benz Patent Motor Car. While that vehicle resembled a horse buggy, the trikes of today blur the lines between sports cars and sport bikes, and compete with them for the attention of adrenaline seekers. Last fall, Polaris, the 60-year-old Minnesota-based company best known for snowmobiles and ATVs, joined the trike action with the Slingshot, which, like the Campagna T-Rex and the Morgan 3 Wheeler, has two wheels in front and one in back.

Classified as a motorcycle (some states require the driver to have a motorcycle license and wear a helmet), the Slingshot drives more like a four-wheeler than a two-wheeler. Instead of straddling the Slingshot in tandem, the driver and passenger ride side by side in the open-air cockpit, sitting in bucket seats that, like the rest of the

interior, are waterproof.

The 2.4-liter dual-overhead cam engine produces 173 hp and 166 ft lbs of torque at 4,700 rpm. The Slingshot weighs just 1,750 pounds (wet), so its power-to-weight ratio is impressive. Indeed, it is better than those of four of this year's Car of the Year competitors, including the Bentley Continental GT V8 S and the Mercedes-Benz S500 4-Matic Coupe. The Slingshot's zero-to-60-mph time has been estimated at 5 seconds and its top speed at 130 mph. The steel space-frame chassis sits just 5 inches off the ground, which gives occupants the sensation that the vehicle is moving even faster and delivers an adrenaline rush that few cars can provide.

The Slingshot stands just over 4 feet tall, and the track width for the front wheels is nearly 6 feet. The battery is mounted low, just behind the seats, and the engine sits just aft of the front axle. The dimensions and configuration, combined with

the proximity to the ground, give the Slingshot a balanced and stable ride. This was evident during test-drives of the \$20,000 base Slingshot and the \$24,000 SL model on the roads that wind through the hills of Malibu, Calif.

The two models did an equally good job of absorbing road chatter thanks to the double-wishbone front suspension and sway bar. However, the SL, which has larger tires and other upgrades, was able to navigate the turns with greater speed. The steering on both models exhibited more float than expected, but the gears of the 5-speed manual transmission were easy to find, and the clutch was smooth.

In addition to larger tires, the SL model also comes with a windscreen, a backup camera, USB ports, Bluetooth connectivity, and a six-speaker audio system.

—AMANDA MILLIN

Polaris, polaris.com

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Ponying Up

A NEW PROGRAM IN CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY OFFERS LESSONS IN THE FINER—AND ROUGHER—POINTS OF POLO.

TALIA'S MUSCLES TWITCH impatiently under her glossy hide as she dances over the closely cropped grass of the Wine Country Polo Club. Ignacio "Nacho" Figueras is leading the chestnut mare, one of several ponies competing in the inaugural St. Regis Polo Cup in Sonoma, Calif., about 50 miles north of San Francisco. Talia played in the event's second match—galloping up and down the 300-yard-long Henry Trione field—and now, an hour later, she appears rested and ready for another round.

"Horses always know how serious you are," says Figueras, a top-ranked Argentine polo player (also featured in this month's "The Robb Reader," page 168) who led the St. Regis team to victory in the match that ended moments ago, "and how scared you are." Still in his jersey—the number 3 asserting his position as an experienced goal driver on the four-person team—Figueras

is standing in for the veteran polo pro Rafael Hernandez to offer me an introductory lesson in the sport of kings. Hernandez's hour-long classes for two are part of the St. Regis San Francisco's new Sport of Polo Aficionado package, which launched last May in conjunction with the St. Regis Polo Cup event.

Though the expert-led course is a new program from St. Regis, the company's association with polo dates back more than a century. The brand's founder, John Jacob Astor IV, attended some of the nation's first polo matches (on Governors Island in New York in the early 1900s), and his original St. Regis hotel frequently housed players and fans. In 2008 the brand reinforced its connection to the sport with the launch of the St. Regis International Cup in England. Today the company hosts about a dozen St. Regis Polo events per year in as many as nine countries.

The second St. Regis event in Sonoma will take place this fall, but the San Francisco property's Sport of Polo Aficionado package (\$3,375 per couple) is available starting in May. Though green riders are welcome, the program is best suited to experienced equestrians, as the lesson can include fast-paced scrimmages with Hernandez. No matter one's skill level, polo is not for the faint of heart. There is little besides a helmet to protect players from injury, which the sport's swinging mallets and 1,100-pound ponies can inflict in any number of ways.

"If you're scared, you're not showing it," Figueras says with a nod. I grasp the prickly stubble of Talia's mane—shaved close to keep from getting tangled with the mallets—and pull myself up onto the saddle. Following Figueras's instructions, I slip the fabric loop at the end of the polo stick over my right wrist and grip the bamboo handle. Holding the reins with my left hand, I take a few practice strokes, which resemble a golf swing mixed with an underhand softball pitch.

"Balance is everything!" Figueras calls out, reminding me to face my hips forward as I approach the ball for my first hit. "The more balanced you are, the more you'll help the horse in the game." Heels pressed down, I stand up out of the saddle and focus on the apple-sized ball. With a dense thud my mallet head meets the mark, sending it bouncing down the field.

Still, even at half speed, the challenge of the sport is evident. Effectively connecting the mallet's weighty head with the ball while steering a steed can prove a difficult—and draining—task. Soon after missing a tricky "nearside" hit (when the stick is crossed over to the left side), I feel my legs and right shoulder begin to burn.

At the conclusion of the lesson, I dismount and land shakily beside my muscled mare, who has barely broken a sweat. "You did great work!" Figueras declares as Talia is led back toward the stable, and I am almost certain he is talking to me.

—CAROLYN MEERS

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AN EARLY-MORNING fog settles over the Great Smoky Mountains as the residents of eastern Tennessee's Blackberry Farm begin their daily routine. Horses graze in the golden fields, pigs snack on pumpkins and gourds, and trout splash along in their migration up Hesse Creek. I have joined Penny, a health coach at the resort's new Wellhouse spa, for a three-mile sunrise hike, crossing streams and climbing hills to the soundtrack of crunching leaves and whistling birds. Log bridges link leafy forest to leafy forest until we emerge onto a mountaintop platform set with yoga mats. Lying down for a woodsy meditation session, we inhale the crisp mountain air and stretch as the fog slowly lifts.

Set amid 4,200 acres of rolling foothills, Blackberry Farm has long been known for its Southern hospitality and its exceptional—and indulgent—Southern cuisine. Last June, the 68-room Relais & Châteaux resort introduced a healthy

complement to its culinary programs with the debut of the Wellhouse, a 12,663-square-foot wellness facility that offers fitness and health programs paired with spa treatments and other healing therapies.

Though it resembles a 19th-century schoolhouse—with white clapboard and stone walls and reclaimed wood floors—the Wellhouse is a state-of-the-art retreat, featuring nine treatment rooms, three fitness studios, a swimming pool, a juice bar, and a lounge with views of the farm and rolling pastures. An extensive 44-page menu focuses on experiences both localized and specialized, from seasonal treatments that incorporate homegrown lavender, pumpkin, and honey to men's options that include sports therapies and deep-tissue massage.

Fitness sessions similarly revolve around Blackberry Farm's natural surroundings. One-on-one personal training sessions can include horseback riding, kayaking, and treks such as my Earthfit Endurance Hike. The resort also offers wellness-themed

lectures, nutrition consultations, and cooking and gardening classes.

As Penny and I return from our trek in the mountains, she points out bars and stumps camouflaged into the landscape that are used in the resort's Appalachian version of CrossFit classes. Back at the Wellhouse, I am greeted with a shot of Fire Cider—a surprisingly tasty mix of apple cider vinegar and spices that I am told will boost my immune system—before settling in for a Smoky Mountain Skin Glow therapy. The 60-minute scrub uses a blend of citrus and pomegranate seeds with essential oils, leaving my skin silky and rejuvenated. Thoroughly calmed, I tuck into the spa's Tranquility Room, where hanging meditation beds topped with plush pillows swing from the ceiling. I close my eyes, intent on meditating for only a moment before drifting off to sleep. —JANICE O'LEARY

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Garments in Caruso's Manhattan boutique are displayed as dramatically as works of art in a museum.

Good Italian

CARUSO'S NEW FLAGSHIP STORE BRINGS THE BEST OF ITALY TO NEW YORK.

PATRONS WHO ENTER Caruso's polished new men's store in Manhattan—even those who might be unfamiliar with the company's history—will immediately recognize the brand's origins. A large-scale intarsia work by the artist Giuseppe Amato greets clients, and memorabilia and images of Milan's legendary opera house, Teatro alla Scala, enliven the VIP room, where staff members pour a variety of Italian wines. The store's meticulous design reflects the aesthetic sensibilities of the company's chief executive, Umberto Angeloni, who is best known perhaps for building the Brioni brand into a global powerhouse. Even the shop's impeccably tailored suits are displayed neatly against the walls like works of art, their duplicates stored discreetly out of sight. "I wanted to show only one piece of each kind," says Angeloni, "so that the consumer would concentrate on the piece and really appreciate the fabric and the workmanship."

Every aspect of the boutique underscores Caruso's Italian roots—all, that is, except one: its location. Angeloni's decision to open his first store in New York rather than in his native country was strategic. He believes that American menswear consumers have



always harbored a deep appreciation of Italian style—and of the Italian flair for wearing flawlessly fitted suits with casual ease. "The Caruso man is the good Italian," he says, "a connoisseur, a gentleman, and someone whose style is something to which

the rest of the world aspires." This description might well apply to Angeloni himself, whose passions include Italian opera, fine wine, wild-boar hunting, and malt whisky, the latter being the subject of a book he recently published.

Although the Caruso name may be new to consumers as a brand in its own right, the company has been producing men's suits for leading luxury brands since its founding in the 1950s by the Neapolitan tailor Raffaele Caruso. In its busy atelier, artisans hand embroider buttonholes and use the finest douppioni silk to construct elegant evening jackets. Suits made using the brand's top-quality Super 180 fabric—a textile that combines the heaviness of British wool with the softness favored by Italians—start at \$4,850, while a grosgrain white dinner jacket retails for \$3,050. Regardless of the type of garment, however, Caruso's subtle details and dedication to excellence serve to remind its clientele that—in the sartorial sphere, at least—this particular Italian is more than merely good.

—PAIGE REDDINGER

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Site Effects

NAPA VALLEY'S SAINT HELENA WINERY DRAWS ITS STRENGTH AND BEAUTY FROM THE SOIL.

LOATED IN a tranquil corner of St. Helena, Calif., the small estate of Saint Helena Winery remains very much under the radar of the area's casual visitors. The property's modest production—fewer than 2,000 cases annually—is sold primarily through a mailing list, the members of which are granted visitation rights to this otherwise exclusive establishment. Seated on the back porch of the vineyard house, patrons can enjoy as many as three different estate Cabernet Sauvignons made from the vines that spread out before them, and a Chardonnay from a vineyard high on Sonoma Mountain. Although the wines of Saint Helena Winery have long received praise for their excellence, changes in the estate's ownership and winemaking team have significantly elevated the quality and style of its recent vintages.

The Silicon Valley veteran Peter Story purchased the vineyard in 1994. For several years he acted simply as a grower, selling



his fruit to such notable wineries as Opus One and Quintessa, but with the help of the renowned winemaker Mark Herold, he produced a single barrel of Sympa Cabernet Sauvignon in 2000, founding the unassumingly named new winery. Excited by the result, he increased production slowly over the next 10 years, with first Herold and then Sarah Gott as consulting winemakers. In 2010, Story sold the property to Federated

Elizabeth Tangney and Aaron Pott (below) have revamped the vineyard management and winemaking at Saint Helena Winery (left).

Insurance, a company established in the early 1900s by a group of Midwestern farmers and farm-equipment dealers.

Story recommended that the new owner bring on the consulting winemaker Aaron Pott, who had become acquainted with Story and his fruit while making wine for Quintessa. Pott soon hired Elizabeth Tangney, formerly of Bryant Family Vineyard, to take on the day-to-day role of winemaker and viticulturist, and together they made dramatic improvements in the vineyard by converting the estate to sustainable farming and slashing yields to almost half of their former level. The advantages of this revised regimen are apparent in the 2010 vintage. “We have moved from a very hands-off vineyard approach,” says Pott, “to trying to control every aspect of the vineyard, from pruning to yield to vigor to irrigation. It is a great property on a very lovely gravel soil, and the wine is one of elegance and wonderful complexity—evocative.”

The Chardonnay is modern and stylish, matching a vibrant acidity with a healthy dose of oak. The Estate Cabernet Sauvignon is darkly fruited yet poised, revealing tantalizing wisps of black olive and espresso. Fruit from the vineyard's premier block goes into Sympa—a carefully structured Cabernet with notes of dark chocolate and roasted herbs layered over a core of black cherry fruit—as well as the Grand Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon. The latter bottling is produced only in exceptional years using wines from the vintage's best barrels, which render a savory, brooding red whose weight is lifted on the palate by bright acidity and a sweet current of ripe blackberry.

“The vineyard,” Pott observes, “has its own style, and I am just trying to shepherd it along to enhance what is already there and not block out what is extraordinary about the site.” —KELLI WHITE

Saint Helena Winery, 707.967.9463, sthelenawinery.com

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◆
The Ellsworth collection auctions will include this ancient Chinese gilt-bronze bear (left) and a 9th-century South Indian bronze figure of Shiva Nataraja.
◆

Dealer's Choice

THE \$50 MILLION ELLSWORTH COLLECTION OF ASIAN ART AND ANTIQUES GOES TO AUCTION.

ROBERT Hatfield Ellsworth predicted that after he died his possessions would be disbursed in a “consecutive seven-day sale.” Ellsworth, who passed away in August at age 85, was a leading dealer and collector of Asian art and antiques and one of the foremost authorities on those subjects. His prediction referred to his paintings, sculptures, furniture, and other modern and antique works of art from China, Japan, India, and Southeast Asia. The collection, much of which was housed in Ellsworth’s 22-room Manhattan apartment that doubled as his showroom, includes about 2,000 pieces and is valued at around \$50 million. It will be sold nearly as he envisioned.

Christie’s will conduct a series of live and online auctions of the Ellsworth collection over five days, from March 17 through 21, at its showroom in Rockefeller Plaza in Manhattan. (The final day will be dedicated to the sale of the European furniture and artworks from his apartment.) According

to Christie’s, Ellsworth’s is the largest private collection of Asian art ever to go to auction. One of the top lots is a bronze South Indian figure of Shiva Nataraja that dates to the 9th century and has a presale estimate of about \$2.5 million. Another featured lot is a gilt-bronze bear from China sculpted during the Western Han dynasty (206 BC to 8 AD) that sold at a Christie’s auction in 2007 for \$265,000. The sale will also include about 150 Chinese paintings. “It takes 20 of us to match one of him,” says Sandhya Jain-Patel, referring to the breadth of Ellsworth’s collection and expertise. She is the head of Indian and Southeast Asian Art at Christie’s New York and one of many house experts involved with the auctions.

Known as Bobby to his friends, Ellsworth was a high-school dropout who eventually became the protégé of Alice Boney, the leading Manhattan dealer of Asian art in the mid-20th century. He wrote seminal books on Chinese furniture and modern

Chinese painting and became the first U.S. dealer to visit China after the United States restored diplomatic relations in 1979. In the 1990s, he created a Hong Kong-based foundation to restore precious Ming and Qing dynasty buildings in the city of Huangshan in mainland China. Around this same time he was granted honorary Chinese citizenship, becoming only the fourth recipient since the creation of the People’s Republic of China in 1949.

The strength of the Chinese material in the Ellsworth sales should excite collectors from China, says Tina Zonars, Christie’s international director of Chinese works of art. “When a private collection comes up that belongs to a known name, it definitely gets a lot of attention. It’s a tried-and-true formula, definitely for Chinese clients. He was well respected in China because of what he did in China—he gave back.”

—SHEILA GIBSON STOODLEY

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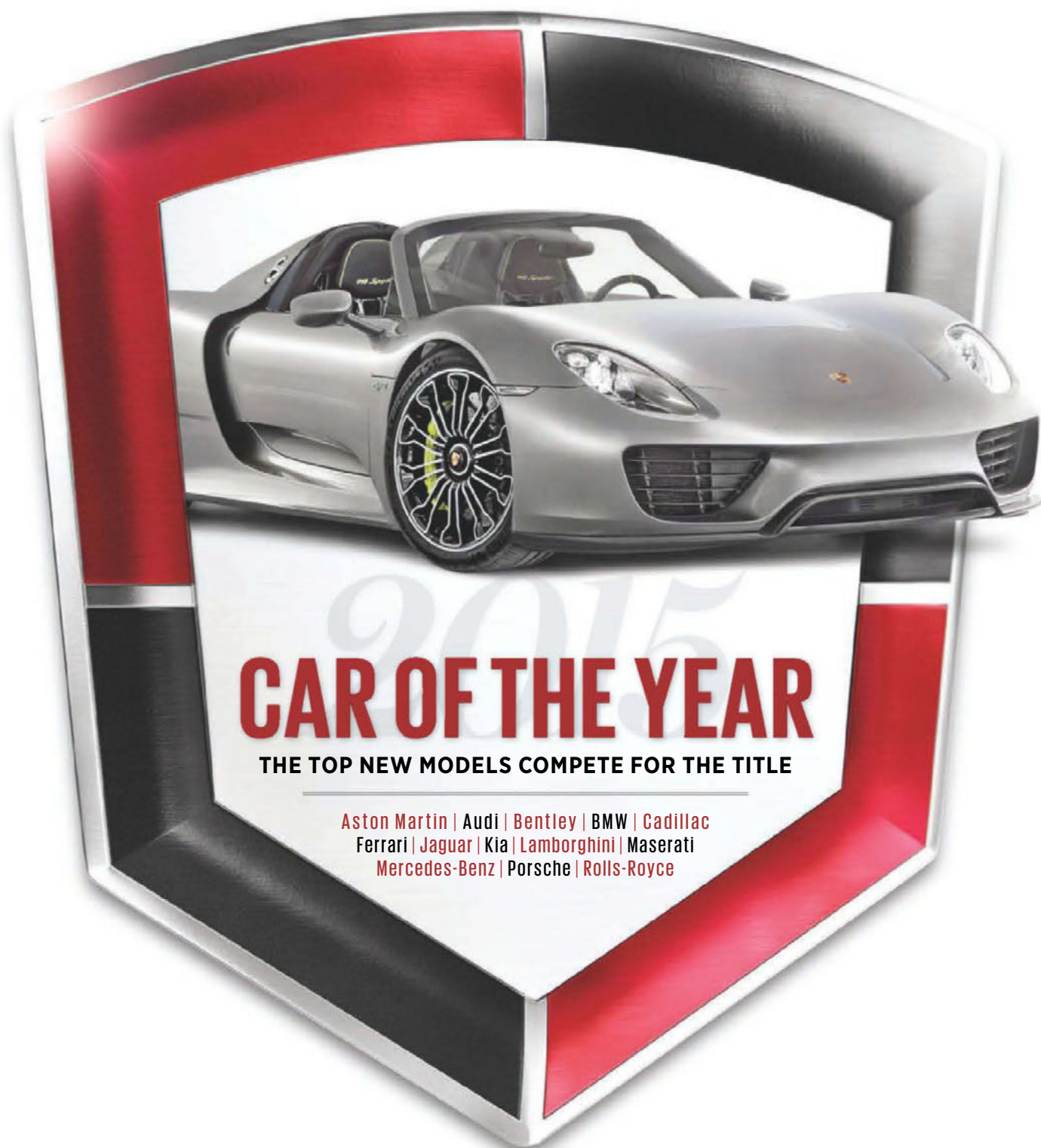
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2015 CAR OF THE YEAR

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CAR OF THE YEAR 2015

Philosophers of the Road

An unusually diverse and uniquely daring assemblage of 13 automobiles challenged assumptions and presented our judges with the dilemma of choosing a clear winner.

BY BRETT ANDERSON | PHOTOGRAPHY BY CORDERO STUDIOS

MICHELDEMONTAIGNE, the French philosopher, essayist, and most modern of Renaissance men, astutely observed that no conversation is more boring than the one in which everyone agrees. Certainly, the author of the *Essais* never wearied his interlocutors with his compliance, for he seldom allowed any statement to pass unchallenged, and he deemed no topic unworthy of serious investigation: He once penned a brief treatise on the historical role of the thumb. His lively mind made him an entertaining conversationalist early on, and immersion in the

classics of Roman literature enhanced his native inquisitiveness. Adept in both disputations and disquisition, Montaigne dazzled his tutors and, later, his teachers at the College of Guyenne, which he entered when he was just 6. As a counselor in the high court of Bordeaux (an honor he attained in his early 20s) and a courtier to King Charles IX of France, Montaigne conversed with some of the most erudite individuals of the day. Yet none of these exchanges surpassed those he enjoyed with the poet Étienne de La Boétie—a kindred spirit with whom he maintained an ongoing discourse

until La Boétie's premature death in 1563 at the age of 32. What Montaigne called his "chatter" quieted noticeably after the loss of his friend and, in his final years, grew silent altogether when the inflammation of the throat that ultimately ended his life robbed him of speech.

Still, Montaigne's most important dialogue was the one he conducted with himself. In his essays, Montaigne the cynic frequently fences with Montaigne the idealist, impugning one idea and positing another, until subtle truths are uncovered. "To philosophize is to doubt," he writes—an insight whose



validity the participants in our 22nd *Robb Report* Car of the Year competition had ample opportunity to test. This year's judges (see page 126), who gathered in California's Napa Valley last November, undertook the formidable task of selecting from a cadre of leading 2015 luxury and sports models the single vehicle that most fully realizes the promise it makes to the potential buyer with respect to performance, design, and comfort. The contenders comprised the Aston Martin Vanquish Volante, Audi RS 7, Bentley Continental GT V8 S, BMW i8, Cadillac ELR, Ferrari California T, Jaguar F-Type R Coupe, Kia K900, Lamborghini Huracán LP 610-4, Maserati Ghibli S Q4, Mercedes-Benz S550 AMG 4-Matic Coupe, Porsche 918 Spyder, and Rolls-Royce Wraith. Confronted with this lineup, not even Montaigne—renowned for his impeccable judgment and unerring eloquence—could

declare in favor of pure Italian horsepower over German technical prowess without suffering at least some pangs of doubt. For many of our panelists, the degree of anguish was considerably greater. Some approached the competition with prejudices on behalf of one marque, only to experience misgivings behind the wheel of another. During past events, a handful of front-runners have quickly emerged among the rival motorcars; but this time, as the judges endlessly equivocated, no clear victor materialized. And in the evenings, when the drivers assembled to share their conclusions, the conversation was anything but boring: No one appeared to agree on anything.

This seeming discord was made more palatable by the hospitality of the Meadowood resort in St. Helena, Calif., where the guests were lodged, and the superb dinners furnished by some of the industry's premier

estates: Beringer Vineyards, Bremer Family Winery, Cade, Chimney Rock Winery, Colgin Cellars, Fantesca Estate & Winery, Far Niente, Hall Wines, Penfolds, Rutherford Hill Winery, and Viader Vineyards & Winery. Over clinking glasses and forks, these philosophers of all things automotive offered their disquisitions and disputes; cynics vied with optimists, realists with passionate believers, and in the end, truth—and a winner—revealed itself. The substance of this animated conversation can be gleaned from the remarks included on the following pages—though, thanks to the wine, we cannot state with certainty that all of the speakers actually remember their words. This awkward circumstance at least would have elicited some sympathy from the usually exacting Montaigne, who once remarked, “People are constantly quoting me to me without my realizing it.” **R**

As the judges endlessly equivocated, no clear victor emerged.



Porsche 918 Spyder

BY A PRECIOUS NOSE

IN A NEAR photo finish, the 918 Spyder edged out the second-, third-, and fourth-place cars, each of which had vociferous proponents among our 139 guest judges. This is the rarest, fastest, quickest,

and priciest production Porsche ever, and the most groundbreaking. The hybrid supercar develops nearly 900 hp from a 4.6-liter V-8 gasoline engine and two electric motors. They catapult the machine—initially in silence, until the V-8 kicks in—to

speeds wholly inappropriate for public roads. But extreme performance is not the car's only attribute. In fact, the 918 Spyder is docile at dawdling speeds, and it is as comfortable as any sports car. This is not to suggest that it could serve as a daily driver.



“The excitement, the sound, the vibration, the acceleration . . . it’s the perfect adrenaline car.”

—THOMAS KELLER

“This car is extreme. There’s nothing docile about this car. It’s worth every penny and then some.”

—ZANE EDWARDS

“This is earth-shattering. This is the real deal. The modern interpretation of a 1960s Le Mans car.”

—DIRK HAMPSON

It has little space for luggage, it rides very low to the ground, and the nick of a front spoiler is sure to cause the car's owner to wince, if only because such an exquisite hand-built creation has been sullied. —ROBERT ROSS

PICK YOUR PLAUDITS

Fantastic. Incredible. Stunning. Our jurors sifted through accolades, seeking the one that best describes the 918 Spyder, which joins Ferrari's LaFerrari and the McLaren P1 in the hybrid-supercar vanguard. Driving the 918 Spyder is an easier-than-expected matter of harnessing the 887 hp generated by two electric motors and one V-8 engine. The car's acceleration is like an explosion, and the top speed is 214 mph. Its performance is eye-watering, soul-shattering, mind-bending, and, as some judges concluded, totally awesome. —PAUL DEAN

FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

The 918 Spyder may be a plug-in hybrid that enables drivers to travel an average of 12 miles on electric power alone, but it has much more in common with a Formula 1 racecar

“The acceleration is insane. It rips your hair out.”

—ADAM SEKULOW

than a practical daily driver. It is priced from \$845,000, it reaches a top speed of 214 mph, and it accelerates from zero to 60 mph in 2.5 seconds. In the all-electric mode, the 918 Spyder silently traverses the road, but when the 4.6-liter V-8 growls to life, it takes this rocket from demure to disruptive. Triple-digit speeds are achieved in as much time as it takes drivers to acclimate to the *g*-forces pinning their skulls to the headrest. Potent as the engine and motors are, the car still enabled our judges to corral the power and enjoy navigating the serpentine roads in Napa Valley. —SHAUN TOLSON

“It just envelops you. It's like you're one with the car.”

—KARL ZEILE



“I've never driven anything like it.”

—RYAN FREEDMAN

SPECIFICATIONS

No. 1

CONFIGURATION Mid-engine, rear-wheel-drive, plug-in hybrid sports car **ENGINE** 4.6-liter V-8 and twin electric motors **TRANSMISSION** 7-speed PDK dual-clutch **POWER** 887 hp at 8,500 rpm **TORQUE** 944 ft lbs in seventh gear (398 ft lbs at 6,700 rpm) **CURB WEIGHT** 3,692 pounds **ZERO TO 60 MPH** 2.5 seconds **TOP SPEED** 214 mph **BASE PRICE** \$845,000 **PORSCHE, PORSCHE.COM**





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Ferrari California T

**“You feel extremely
confident driving
this car.”**

—ZANE EDWARDS

STATING ITS CASE

SOME FERRARIS ARE gentle; others are beastly. Our judges found that the California T combines both conditions. This comparatively inexpensive, relatively subdued Ferrari also fills a need in the brand’s lineup for a hardtop

convertible GT that melds docility with ferocity.

The lines of the California T (*T* is for “turbo,” referring to a propulsion system that Ferrari has not used for about 30 years) are more sculptural than muscular.

The car motors with the comfort and relaxed effort of a big Mercedes-Benz sedan. Yet put a boot to the gas pedal, and the 552 hp V-8 roars and grumbles, announcing that this Ferrari is worthy of its badge.

—PAUL DEAN



“An awful lot of car and an awful lot of comfort.”

—BARRY SHERIDAN

“A good upgrade from the previous California. The turbo definitely made a difference.”

—LISA CLARK

CHANGE IS GOOD

The iridescent-blue California T that Ferrari sent to the Car of the Year competition delighted the judges with its power, superb handling, and seductive beauty. This second generation of the model has undergone a complete metamorphosis from the first generation. The original California was a larva of a car that appeared ungainly from some angles and not yet fully formed. It was relatively sluggish for a Ferrari and not a favorite among marque enthusiasts. But the all-new turbocharged California T is a revelation that looks and performs like an altogether different creature.

The twin turbochargers add 69 hp and help the V-8 produce a whopping 557 ft lbs of torque. Yet the car burns 15 percent less fuel than its predecessor and costs only about \$1,000 more. All of the body panels except the roof are new, and a quartet of side-by-side exhaust tips redress the first generation's odd design. The roof is an all-metal hard top that retracts in seconds to turn the coupe into a convertible. —ROBERT ROSS

SWAYING POWER

The original California—a hardtop convertible GT that debuted in 2008—is Ferrari's best-selling model of all time, but the Car of the Year judges who are familiar with the car are not fans of it. Consequently, their

“It handles amazingly. It's a great touring car.”

—JANICE JARAICIE

expectations for the turbocharged second-generation model were low. Once behind the wheel and on the open road, however, they abandoned their skepticism. The new model delivers significantly more torque and horsepower than its predecessor, and is as responsive as any other high-performance grand tourer. It also offers a comfortable interior and intuitive cabin layout that can make high-speed motoring a relaxing experience. —SHAUN TOLSON



No. **2**

SPECIFICATIONS

CONFIGURATION Front-engine, rear-wheel-drive sports car **ENGINE** 3.9-liter turbocharged V-8 **TRANSMISSION** 7-speed automatic **POWER** 552 hp at 7,500 rpm **TORQUE** 557 ft lbs at 4,750 rpm **CURB WEIGHT** 3,813 pounds **ZERO TO 60 MPH** 3.6 seconds **TOP SPEED** 196 mph **BASE PRICE** \$199,000 **FERRARI, FERRARI.COM**



BMW i8

HIGH-TECH MEETS HIGH STYLE

GOING INTO THE final day of competition, the i8 plug-in hybrid was only one vote out of first place, but by the end of the day it had dropped a spot in the rankings, falling from second to third. However, there is no shame in

finishing behind a groundbreaking Porsche supercar and an improved version of what was already the most successful model in Ferrari's history. The judges were impressed with the i8's innovative platform, which pairs a 1.5-liter 3-cylinder turbocharged

engine with the company's eDrive electric motor. The combination produces instant torque and plenty of power to create an exhilarating driving experience.

The i8 also quickens pulses while at rest. Its exotic design includes

"I was prepared not to like it. I wasn't sure about the technology, and this turned me around."

—BOB VAN SCHOONENBERG



**“That’s a brilliant car.
The braking in a corner
was phenomenal.”**

—GREG NORMAN

**“It feels smaller
and sportier than
it really is.”**

—BOB SCHMIDT

**“Quiet and
responsive, and
it drives off the
charts.”**

—JEFF MARINE

upward-opening doors that are a cross between the Mercedes-Benz 300SL gull wings and the scissor doors made famous by the Lamborghini Countach. With the i8, BMW has delivered revolutionary **automotive engineering and pack-**aged it in a stunning sports-car body. It is no wonder that some judges proclaimed the car to be the automaker’s new benchmark. As one of the drivers cheekily noted, it offers “an electrifying ride.” —SHAUN TOLSON

THE ENVY OF GREEN-MINDED DRIVERS

The i8 is an outlier in the BMW family, looking nothing like its brand siblings—or any other car. It pushes BMW’s current design vocabulary of sharp creases, capacious air intakes, and a conspicuous kidney grille to the limit. Indeed, the blue-and-white roundels are the only sure indicators of its provenance. The i8 is long and low, and it attracts attention from every vantage point. The uniqueness of its design, combined with the hybrid drivetrain, caused such excitement among the Car of the Year judges that many left Napa Valley planning to buy an i8 of their own.

While the electric plug and tiny inline-3 engine are the signatures of this luxury GT, the audacious shape, with fins and gull wing–like doors,

proves that new-tech cars need not look like giant toasters on wheels. With performance and handling not far behind those of some exotic machines that cost two or three times as much, the i8 is a semi-rational alternative that also confers feel-good benefits to green-minded drivers. Though anyone who drives the i8 must be sufficiently limber to negotiate ingress and egress rituals that are no less tedious than stopping at the gas pump. —ROBERT ROSS



SPECIFICATIONS

CONFIGURATION Mid-engine, all-wheel-drive, plug-in hybrid sports car **ENGINE** 1.5-liter turbocharged 3-cylinder and eDrive electric motor **TRANSMISSION** 6-speed automatic and 2-speed electrically actuated **POWER** 357 hp at 5,800 rpm **TORQUE** 420 ft lbs (184 ft lbs instantly) **CURB WEIGHT** 3,455 pounds **ZERO TO 60 MPH** 4.2 seconds **TOP SPEED** 155 mph (limited) **BASE PRICE** \$136,500 **BMW, BMWUSA.COM**

No. **3**



Lamborghini Huracán LP 610-4

“As powerful as the Aventador but smoother through the gears.”

—LARRY MUELLER

FINDING NO FAULTS

THE HURACÁN LP 610-4 is the best automobile Lamborghini has ever made. Of the brand's many groundbreaking models—from the first 350 GT to the exquisite Miura to the futuristic Countach—the Huracán comes closest to achieving the original goal of the company's founder, Ferruccio Lamborghini: “Make a GT car without faults. Not a technical bomb. Very normal. Very conventional. But a perfect car.”

The Huracán is not powered by a fire-breathing V-12 engine. It is not equipped with bat-winged extremities that unfurl at speed to suck air into its voracious maw. And it looks stunning in white—antipodal to the signature flat-black paint usually worn by the bigger, more menacing

Aventador. The Huracán is well mannered, balanced, and friendly to drive, but it delivers sharp-edged handling, prodigious power, and neck-snapping acceleration. It may have the most tasteful body design of any current production car, and it is a shape that, like the Gallardo's before it, will likely stand the test of time.

Drivers will appreciate the panoramic view and the comfortable interior, which has enough elbow room to make this car a true sports GT. Long drives allow for plenty of

“It's an angry beast. It wants to go; it wants to run.”

—PAUL ROBERTS

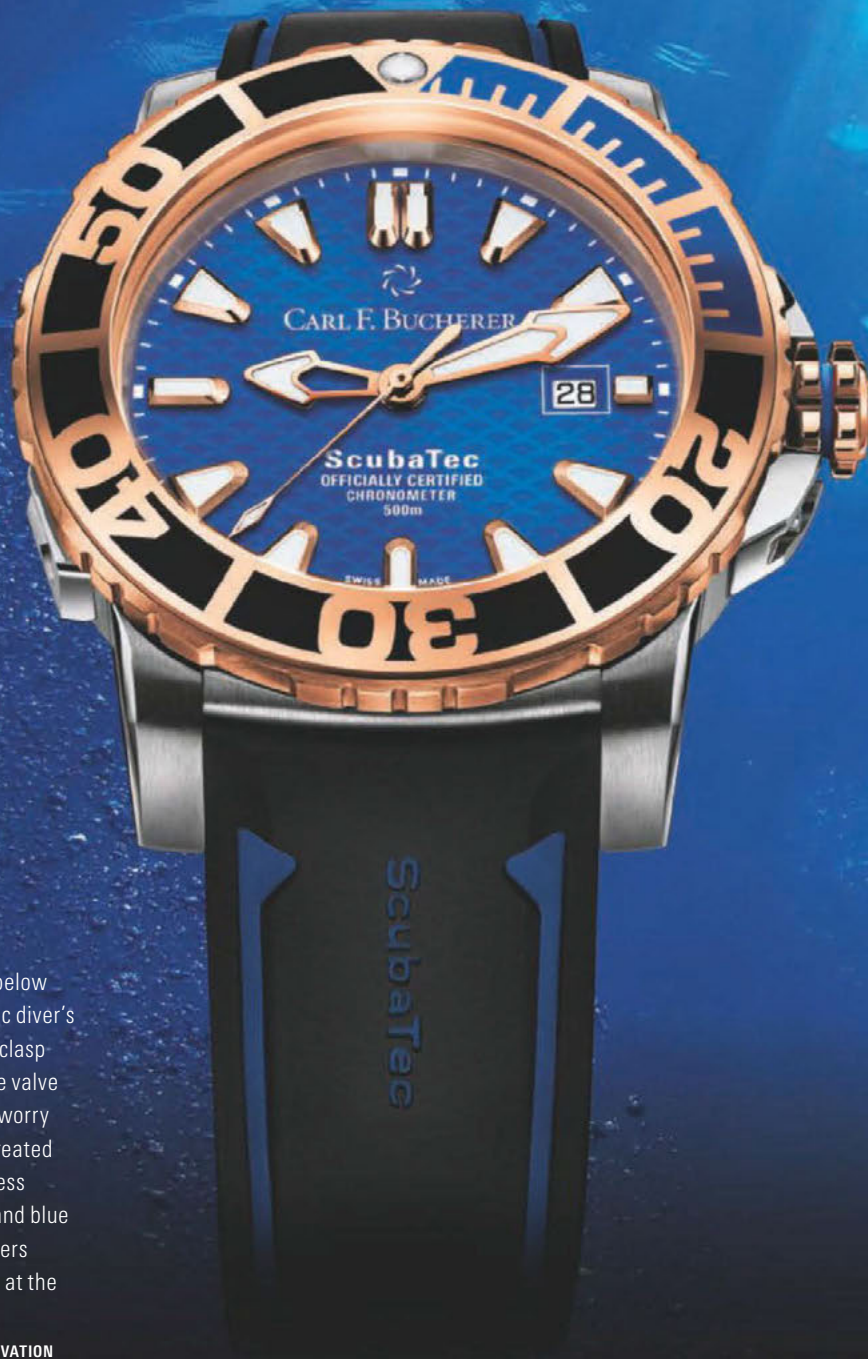
time to explore the capabilities of Lamborghini's flexible V-10, the seamless dual-clutch transmission, and the tenacious all-wheel drive. Though it placed fourth in the judges' voting, the Huracán is this writer's pick for Car of the Year. It bests any of the other 2015 competitors and surely would make the marque's founder proud. —ROBERT ROSS

No. **4**

SPECIFICATIONS

CONFIGURATION Mid-engine, all-wheel-drive sports car **ENGINE** 5.2-liter V-10 **TRANSMISSION** 7-speed, dual-clutch sequential manual **POWER** 610 hp at 8,250 rpm **TORQUE** 413 ft lbs at 6,500 rpm **DRY WEIGHT** 3,135 pounds **ZERO TO 60 MPH** 3.1 seconds **TOP SPEED** 202 mph **BASE PRICE** \$240,000 LAMBORGHINI, LAMBORGHINI.COM

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Aston Martin Vanquish Volante

STRENGTHENING THE BOND

ASTON MARTIN HAS been synonymous with James Bond for five decades now, since the 1964 release of the film franchise's first blockbuster, *Goldfinger*, which featured a DB5 that could dispense oil slicks and

smoke screens and eject unwelcome passengers. It is said that the brand initially balked at becoming involved with the movie. Perhaps it did not want to be tied to the deeply flawed and sometimes unsavory character depicted in Ian Fleming's novels,

which contrast in tone with the campy films. But the carmaker eventually agreed to a product-placement deal, creating an association that it continues to embrace. "If it wasn't for Bond," Aston Martin PR and brand communications manager



“A phenomenal car. Everything is intuitive.”

—SUSAN HOFF

“It’s elegant and sporty, and it’s not a boy’s toy.”

—TIZZIE MANTIONE

Matthew Clarke has said, “there’s a fairly good chance that people wouldn’t know that we exist.”

Agent 007 evidently was on the minds of several Car of the Year judges when they drove the Vanquish Volante. “This is what James Bond would drive to a formal affair,” said one judge. “If it’s good enough for James Bond, it’s good enough for me,” said another. Trite as such comments may be, the Vanquish Volante does share traits with the most recent films’ portrayal of Bond. Like the character, the car is charming and attractive, but it also has a bold, maybe even sinister edge.

The 2015 Vanquish Volante has the same bonded-aluminum-and-carbon-fiber chassis and carbon-fiber body as last year’s model (which finished fourth in the 2014 Car of the Year competition), but it is equipped with a new 8-speed automatic transmission and a new engine-management system for its 6-liter V-12. Together they increase the car’s top speed by 14 mph compared to last year’s model and reduce the zero-to-60-mph time by half a second.

While some judges found the Vanquish Volante’s performance lacking in refinement, others enjoyed the guttural, spine-tingling exhaust notes, a feature that distinguished it from the competition’s electric, hybrid, and turbocharged entries and aligned it with the inelegant, menacing side of the Bond character.

—SHAUN TOLSON

“It has everything to give when you want it.”

—DIRK HAMPSON



“This car handles like a sports car. It hugs the road.”

—TERRY LIEBMAN



No. **5**

SPECIFICATIONS

CONFIGURATION Front-engine, rear-wheel-drive convertible **ENGINE** 6-liter V-12
TRANSMISSION 8-speed Touchtronic III automatic **POWER** 568 hp at 6,650 rpm **TORQUE**
 465 ft lbs at 5,500 rpm **CURB WEIGHT** 4,065 pounds **ZERO TO 60 MPH** 3.6 seconds
TOP SPEED 197 mph **BASE PRICE** \$302,995 **ASTON MARTIN, ASTONMARTIN.COM**



Audi RS 7

“This was above and beyond my expectations.”

—RYAN FREEDMAN

FOR THE PERFORMANCE ADDICT WITH PRACTICAL NEEDS

AT EACH Car of the Year event, judges have asked me which car in the competition I would most want to drive *every day*. The qualifier eliminates the exotic supercars, ultra-luxurious sedans, and sexy GTs—cars that do one or two things superbly but do not meet the broader requirements of a daily driver. It is a rare machine that delivers top performance, safety, comfort, and capacity, and looks great doing so. The car from this year’s competition that fits that bill is the Audi RS 7, which is based on the company’s A7 and engineered by Quattro, the company’s high-performance division.

The RS 7 shares the basic long and low shape of the A7 and includes a tunnel-sized grille opening and

razor-sharp LED lighting. The Car of the Year example had a shiny non-metallic Nardo Gray exterior and black wheels.

Four side doors and a gaping back hatch enable the car to carry enough passengers and party accoutrements for a weekend of revelry, and the cargo space expands from 24.5 cubic feet to 49 cubic feet when the rear seats are folded down. The leather seats are supremely comfortable, supportive, and stitched in an attractive quilted pattern.

The 4-liter, twin-turbocharged V-8 distinguishes the RS 7 from workaday sedans—and from the A7. The engine pumps out 560 hp and 516 ft lbs of torque, giving the car enough power to reach 60 mph from a standstill in 3.7 seconds. The RS 7, which is equipped with Audi’s tenacious Quattro all-wheel drive, performs so ably that most drivers will forget it has more than two doors.

—ROBERT ROSS

“A great engine. It’s a very fast car. I wasn’t expecting it to be as fast as it was.”

—ROBERT INCHES

SPECIFICATIONS

CONFIGURATION Front-engine, all-wheel-drive sedan **ENGINE** 4-liter twin-turbocharged V-8 **TRANSMISSION** 8-speed Tiptronic automatic **POWER** 560 hp at 6,600 rpm **TORQUE** 516 ft lbs at 5,500 rpm **CURB WEIGHT** 4,475 pounds **ZERO TO 60 MPH** 3.7 seconds **TOP SPEED** 174 mph (limited) **BASE PRICE** \$106,500 **AUDI, AUDIUSA.COM**

No. **6**

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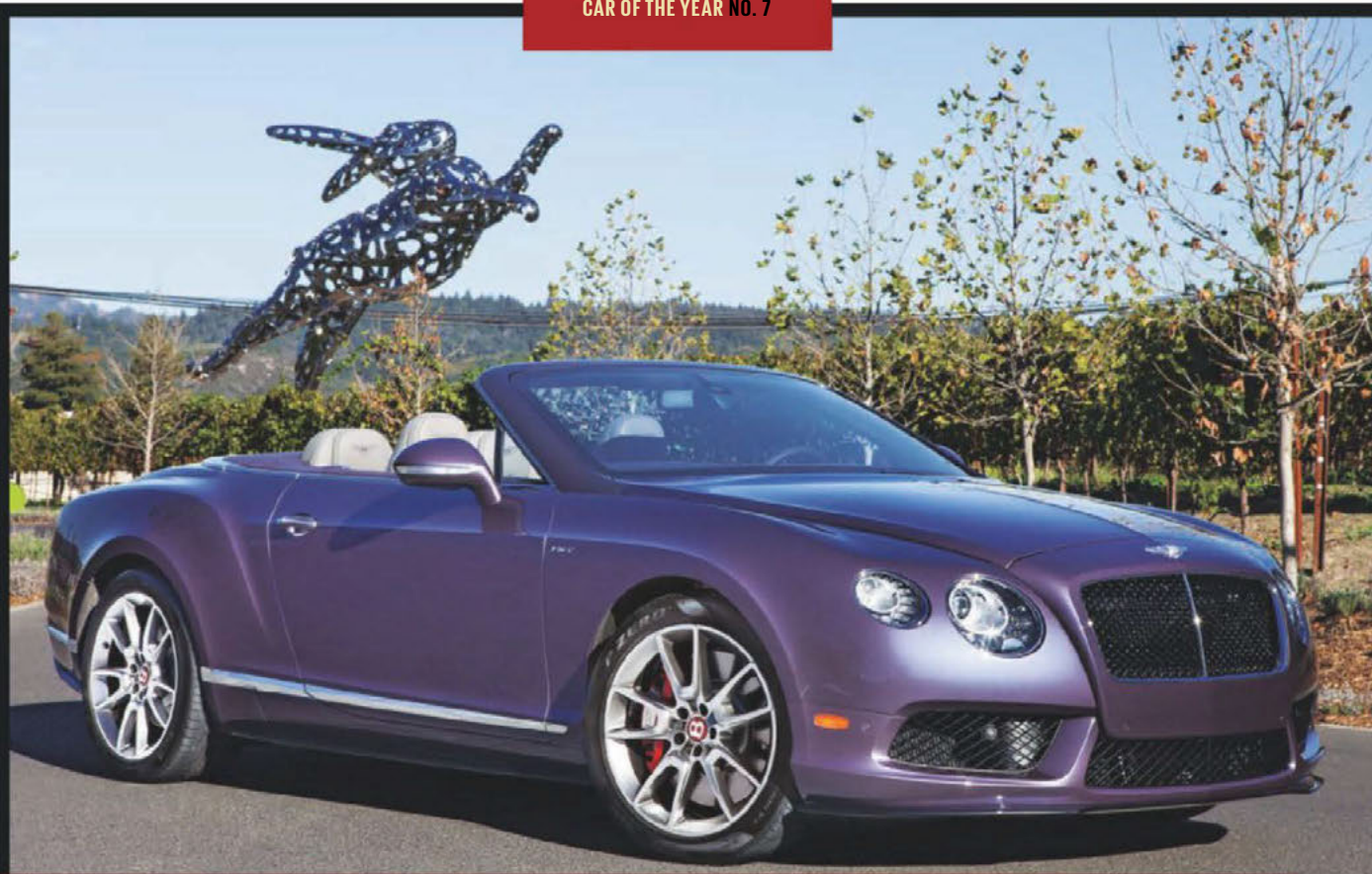
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Bentley Continental GT V8 S Convertible

MORE OF A GOOD THING

THE CONTINENTAL GT V8 S Convertible may be the baddest Bentley since the Le Mans blowers of the 1930s. It is lower, stiffer, and faster than most of the brand's other offerings. It makes ruder noises, and the ride is accordingly bumpier. As if the base GT V8's 500 hp were not sufficient, Bentley added 21 hp to that already mighty output and increased the torque from 487 to 502 ft lbs, making it even easier for drivers to leave lesser traffic at stoplights. The car's zero-to-60-mph time is 4.5 seconds and its top speed is 191 mph. A pair of figure-8 exhaust pipes and a black splitter and diffuser are among the more menacing-looking design elements that Bentley added to the exterior.

"It corners well for a heavy-feeling car. It's the yacht rocket of cars."

—BARRY SHERIDAN

Maybe this velvet bruiser, which is also available as a coupe, would have scored more points with our judges if it were not, as some said, only an exercise in tweaking and freshening—just another in a long list of variants that began with the first Continental GT in 2003 and has included the Le Mans Edition, GT3-R, Speed, Diamond Series, and Supersports. On the other hand, perhaps the GT V8 S ranked as high as it did because, in the eyes

"It's an extraordinary car—how it feels, how it responds."

—THOMAS KELLER

of other judges, this variant serves a real purpose: It offers the surging performance of the W-12-powered Continental GT, the pampering one expects from a Bentley, and the practicality of an 8-cylinder engine. That is not a bad combination.

—PAUL DEAN

No. 7

SPECIFICATIONS

CONFIGURATION Front-engine, all-wheel-drive convertible **ENGINE** 4-liter V-8 **TRANSMISSION** 8-speed ZF automatic **POWER** 521 hp at 6,000 rpm **TORQUE** 502 ft lbs at 1,700 rpm **CURB WEIGHT** 5,445 pounds **ZERO TO 60 MPH** 4.5 seconds **TOP SPEED** 191 mph **BASE PRICE** \$219,400 **BENTLEY, BENTLEYMOTORS.COM**

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Rolls-Royce Wraith

“It’s the most comfortable car you can sit in.”

—TOM MANTIONE

THE FASTEST-MOVING SPIRIT

“You still feel like you’re in a Rolls, but not one from the last century.”

—NICHOLAS NIKOLOV

WHEN BMW purchased Rolls-Royce in 1998, it almost immediately began scraping the fustiness and patina from the brand. The Wraith, the most recent addition to the ethereal family of Ghosts and Phantoms, represents the company’s most obvious attempt to appeal to younger drivers by offering more contemporary-looking vehicles. In the demographic composed of our judges, the big coupe earned enough favor to place eighth.

The Wraith features a roofline that cascades into a genuine, modern fastback and a smaller, less angular version of the brand’s signature Parthenon radiator. It is also the company’s fastest, most powerful car ever. Modern as it may be, the Wraith

retains the majestic presence of a Rolls-Royce. The handcrafted interiors are still museum quality, but leather seats that once felt like overstuffed armchairs have been given just a hint of Recaro. And the options for exterior colors are more 2015 than 1915; they include bright two-tone paint schemes that are far removed from the old, cold Buckingham Palace black.

Although the Wraith weighs nearly 5,400 pounds, its performance is hardly ponderous. The

twin-turbocharged 6.6-liter V-12 **engine churns out an enormous** 624 hp, enabling the Wraith to scoot like a sports car from zero to 60 mph in 4.4 seconds. On the roads of wine country and elsewhere, the Wraith rides flatter and corners with only minimal waffling. It motors with pace, aplomb, and even a little mischief. And if Rolls-Royce has succeeded in its intentions with the Wraith, the driver will feel more hip than haughty.

—PAUL DEAN

No. **8**

SPECIFICATIONS

CONFIGURATION Front-engine, rear-wheel-drive coupe **ENGINE** 6.6-liter twin-turbocharged V-12 **TRANSMISSION** 8-speed automatic **POWER** 624 hp at 5,600 rpm **TORQUE** 590 ft lbs at 1,500 rpm **CURB WEIGHT** 5,380 pounds **ZERO TO 60 MPH** 4.4 seconds **TOP SPEED** 155 mph (limited)
BASE PRICE \$284,900 **ROLLS-ROYCE, ROLLS-ROYCEMOTORCARS.COM**



A man in a dark suit and tie, looking directly at the camera, with various brand names listed around him.

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Jaguar F-Type R Coupe

“The lines are great, and the handling is wonderful.”

—PAT LOW

“A great surprise for the price.”

—JAMIE MCCOURT

“A lot of torque, it sounds great, and it shifts well.”

—DAN KELLOGG

AT ITS BEST IN BEAST MODE

AT LEAST ONE of our judges referenced Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde when commenting on his experience with the F-Type R Coupe. He was alluding to the Jaguar’s duality—its ability to change from benign to beastly with the flick of the driving-mode switch. Most luxury cars now feature multiple driving settings, but among the models that contended for the Car of the Year title, the F-Type R Coupe exhibited the most dramatic transformation between normal and sport. When the sport mode—or Dynamic mode, as Jaguar calls it—is activated, the lighting on the instrument cluster, door handles, and center console glows an ominous red, as if to warn drivers that they are accessing the full capabilities of the highest-performing F-Type variant.

The Dynamic setting tightens the F-Type R Coupe’s suspension, sharpens the throttle response, and increases the steering weighting, enabling the car to sprint faster on open straightaways (the zero-to-60-mph time is 4 seconds) and power through corners while emitting a menacing growl from its outboard-mounted quad exhaust pipes. The supercharged 5-liter V-8 churns out 550 hp (217 hp more than the standard F-Type) and 502 ft lbs of torque. Jaguar’s new torque-vectoring system

nearly eliminates understeer on corner entrances and exits by automatically applying braking to the inside rear wheel and sending additional power to the outside rear wheel.

Standard equipment for the leather-lined interior includes a heated flat-bottomed steering wheel, a Meridian 770-watt audio system, and performance seats, which provided our judges with extra lateral support when they drove the Jaguar in Mr. Hyde mode.

—SHAUN TOLSON

No. **9**

SPECIFICATIONS

CONFIGURATION Front-engine, rear-wheel-drive sports car **ENGINE** 5-liter supercharged V-8 **TRANSMISSION** 8-speed automatic
POWER 550 hp at 6,500 rpm **TORQUE** 502 ft lbs at 2,500 rpm
CURB WEIGHT 3,638 pounds **ZERO TO 60 MPH** 4 seconds **TOP SPEED** 186 mph
BASE PRICE \$99,000 JAGUAR, JAGUARUSA.COM



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Maserati Ghibli S Q4

“It’s a really exciting car.”

—PAUL STANNARD

IN THE BRAND SCHEME

AMONG THE Car of the Year competition’s six-figure-priced supercars, sports cars, and luxury coupes and convertibles, the Maserati Ghibli S Q4 was seen by our judges as neither a pretender nor a contender, but instead as a pleasant enough midsize sedan. They were not necessarily concerned that the Ghibli line may be carrying the highest hopes of Maserati and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, the brand’s Italo-American parent company.

The S Q4 variant is a sporty car that works well when driven hard and begets driver involvement. The steering can be doughy, but the all-wheel drive makes the handling secure. The twin-turbo V-6—built with help from Ferrari—delivers 404 hp and 406 ft lbs of torque. Indeed, the S Q4 has

more horsepower than Jaguar’s vaunted XK coupe and convertible, and it will charge from zero to 60 mph in 4.7 seconds.

The Ghibli S Q4 has a silhouette that is as elegant as the Quattroporte’s, and as with the company’s full-size sedan, its rear displays a pair of twin oval tailpipes that suggest the car’s aggressive nature. Those features may not intimidate someone driving a Car of the Year contender, but they can serve notice to others who are

passed by an S Q4: You would do well to stay back and leave this car alone.

But can buyers in the V-8-centric United States live with twin-turbo V-6 power? Will the S Q4 help Maserati realize its announced ambitions of moving from boutique car builder to mass producer of 50,000 vehicles a year?

Based on our judges’ comments, which ranked the car favorably among the world’s elite automobiles, the answers are yes. —PAUL DEAN

“It’s very sleek and clean. It’s understated; it doesn’t shout, ‘Look at me!’”

—PENNY MAILLOUX

No. **10**

SPECIFICATIONS

CONFIGURATION Front-engine, all-wheel-drive sedan
ENGINE 3-liter twin-turbo V-6 **TRANSMISSION** 8-speed ZF automatic **POWER** 404 hp at 5,500 rpm **TORQUE** 406 ft lbs at 1,750 rpm **CURB WEIGHT** 4,124 pounds **ZERO TO 60 MPH** 4.7 seconds **TOP SPEED** 175 mph **BASE PRICE** \$77,900
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Mercedes-Benz S550 4-Matic Coupe

“Elegant, classy, comfortable, and it drove perfectly.”

—JEFF MARINE

“One of the most well-executed interiors among all these cars.”

—ZANE EDWARDS

COMFORTABLE AND DECEPTIVELY QUIET

THE S550 COUPE evolved from the S550 sedan, which participated in *Robb Report*'s 2014 Car of the Year event and also finished in 11th place. Like the sedan, the coupe is powered by a 4.7-liter twin-turbocharged V-8 engine that delivers 449 hp and 516 ft lbs of torque. The new model also shares the sedan's bevy of driver-assistance programs, including thermal-imaging cameras for night driving and an adaptive suspension system that uses forward-facing cameras to analyze and adjust to upcoming road conditions. Unfortunately, as was the case last year with the sedan, the judges drove the coupe in sunlight on smooth roads, so they did not have the chance to sample some of Mercedes-Benz's more impressive

technology. In a different place at a different time, the S550 coupe may have finished higher in the rankings.

The standard and optional cabin amenities include Magic Sky Control, which electronically changes the transparency of the sunroof glass; an atomizer that fills the car with a choice of fragrances; heated armrests; and a hot-stone massage feature for each seat.

Such opulence does not come at the expense of performance. The

S550 Coupe can sprint from zero to 60 mph in 4.5 seconds. It is faster off the line than the Maserati Ghibli S Q4 and nearly as quick as the Bentley Continental GT V8 S and the Jaguar F-Type R Coupe. Yet because the cabin is so effective at blocking out road noise, drivers may feel detached from the car's power. As one judge observed, “It does all the things that the other cars do, but it's very sedate in terms of the experience inside.”

—SHAUN TOLSON

SPECIFICATIONS

CONFIGURATION Front-engine, all-wheel-drive coupe

ENGINE 4.7-liter twin-turbocharged V-8 **TRANSMISSION**

7-speed automatic **POWER** 449 hp at 5,500 rpm **TORQUE**

516 ft lbs at 1,800 rpm **CURB WEIGHT** 4,707 pounds

ZERO TO 60 MPH 4.5 seconds **TOP SPEED** 130 mph (limited)

BASE PRICE \$119,900 **MERCEDES-BENZ, MBUSA.COM**

No. **11**



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Kia K900

“Kia’s done a great job with its finishes and looks.”

—SEBASTIEN SILVESTRI

A DARK HORSE DELIVERS A SURPRISINGLY SMOOTH RIDE

THE K900 EARNED a dubious distinction in Napa: Not since the Morgan 3 Wheeler participated in the 2013 Car of the Year competition have so many judges questioned an automobile’s presence at the event. Before even settling into its fully appointed leather interior, many participants dismissed the sedan because of its modest price and non-European origin. But our more open-minded judges welcomed the opportunity to drive Kia’s most opulent offering, eager to experience the Korean carmaker’s take on luxury.

Viewed objectively, without any badging bias, the K900’s amenities and performance rival those of the big sedans from Audi, Jaguar, Mercedes-Benz, Lexus, and

BMW—automobiles that cost as much as twice the \$54,500 base price of the K900, which comes with a 10-year power-train warranty. The Kia also looks right at home when parked next to the latest Euro-luxury crop. Its tasteful shape reflects the aesthetic of Kia’s design chief, Peter Schreyer, who worked at Audi for more than 25 years before joining Kia in 2006. He is perhaps best known for his landmark styling of the Audi TT.

The K900 is powered by a 5-liter

V-8 that produces a healthy 420 hp and performs beautifully in tandem with the smooth 8-speed transmission. As our judges discovered, the car’s fit and finish—including panel gaps, paint quality, and interior stitching—is on a par with those of the European iron. Drivers savvy enough to look beyond the hood emblem will be pleasantly surprised by this unheralded addition to the luxury-sedan segment.

—ROBERT ROSS

“It’s not a car that you’d want to take up to the mountains, but it would be fun to drive in the city.”

—RAVI MEHTA

No. **12**

SPECIFICATIONS

CONFIGURATION Front-engine, rear-wheel-drive sedan
ENGINE 5-liter V-8 **TRANSMISSION** 8-speed automatic
POWER 420 hp at 6,400 rpm **TORQUE** 376 ft lbs at 5,000 rpm
CURB WEIGHT 4,555 pounds **ZERO TO 60 MPH** 5.5 seconds
TOP SPEED 150 mph **BASE PRICE** \$54,500
KIA, KIA.COM

R Of Note

From David Arnold,

Senior Vice President/Group Publisher
of *Robb Report*

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Cadillac ELR

“A beautiful car for what it’s intended to be.”

—LISA CLARK

A HYBRID COUPE WITH A HIGH CHARGE

“It just felt like my father’s car, but electric.”

—MARK LONG

“It doesn’t work on any level.”

—JOHN TAYLOR

WITH SOLID engineering behind its electric drive-train and Cadillac’s cutting-edge Art and Science design, the ELR holds promise. But it was relegated to a very distant last-place finish at the Car of the Year contest. A handful of judges enjoyed driving the plug-in hybrid coupe; the rest found fault with it. Many were vicious in their criticism, excoriating the car for a rough and sluggish performance, uninspired interior, or lackluster fit and finish. Many compared it unfavorably to another GM electric car, the Chevrolet Volt (which finished last in the 2012 Car of the Year competition). They cited similarities to the Volt’s platform and performance and questioned why, at \$75,000, the ELR costs roughly

\$40,000 more than the base price of the quotidian Chevy. Comparisons with the prices of the Kia K900, the standard version of the Maserati Ghibli, and other European offerings also did the ELR no favors.

Our judges may have responded more positively to the ELR if Cadillac offered it for less money—or offered more car for the same price. Either way, such negative reactions from such seasoned luxury-car buyers suggest that Cadillac should do more



than just move its marketing mavens from Detroit to Manhattan to better connect with the customers they need to impress. —ROBERT ROSS

No. **13**

SPECIFICATIONS

CONFIGURATION Front-engine, front-wheel-drive extended-range electric coupe **ENGINE** Electric drive unit and a 1.4-liter gas-powered electric generator **TRANSMISSION** Multimode electric transaxle **POWER** 207 hp at 4,800 rpm **TORQUE** 295 ft lbs instantly **CURB WEIGHT** 4,070 pounds **ZERO TO 60 MPH** 7.8 seconds **TOP SPEED** 106 mph **BASE PRICE** \$75,000 **CADILLAC**, CADILLAC.COM

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Steering Committee

The following *Robb Report* readers were among the guests who joined the magazine's editors and writers in driving, evaluating, and ranking the 2015 Car of the Year candidates.

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Paul Stannard
Ron Stoll
Jason Suttle
Lewis Swezy
Steve Taback
John Taylor
John Terlato
Dave Thorson
Thomas Tippl
Michael Uytengsu
Eduard van der Geest
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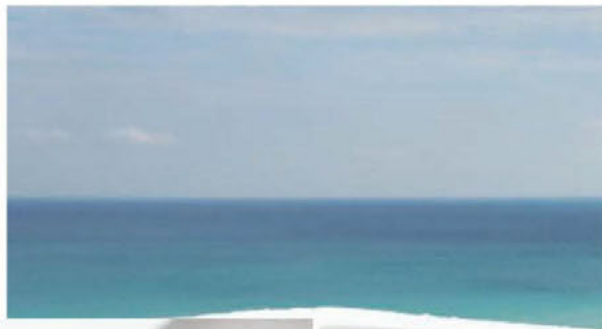
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White Heat



The easy elegance of Miami Beach provides a brilliant backdrop for this season's casual attire, whose cool colors and airy lines are ideally suited to the city's sun-drenched days and breezy nights.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
DAVID ROEMER

STYLING BY
CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL

PHOTOGRAPHED AT
DELANO SOUTH BEACH, MIAMI



OPPOSITE: *Burberry Prorsum*
denim trousers, \$575 (burberry.com); *Brunello Cucinelli*
cotton T-shirt, \$365
(brunellocucinelli.com).

THIS PAGE: *Cesare Attolini*
cotton piqué shirt, \$675
(cesareattolini.com);
Dior Homme cotton twill
pants, \$840 (diorhomme.com);
Tiffany & Co. sterling-silver
T square bracelet, \$950
(tiffany.com).

WHITE HEAT



OPPOSITE: *Giorgio Armani*
wool-and-elastane jacket, \$2,295,
and trousers, \$1,145 (armani.com)

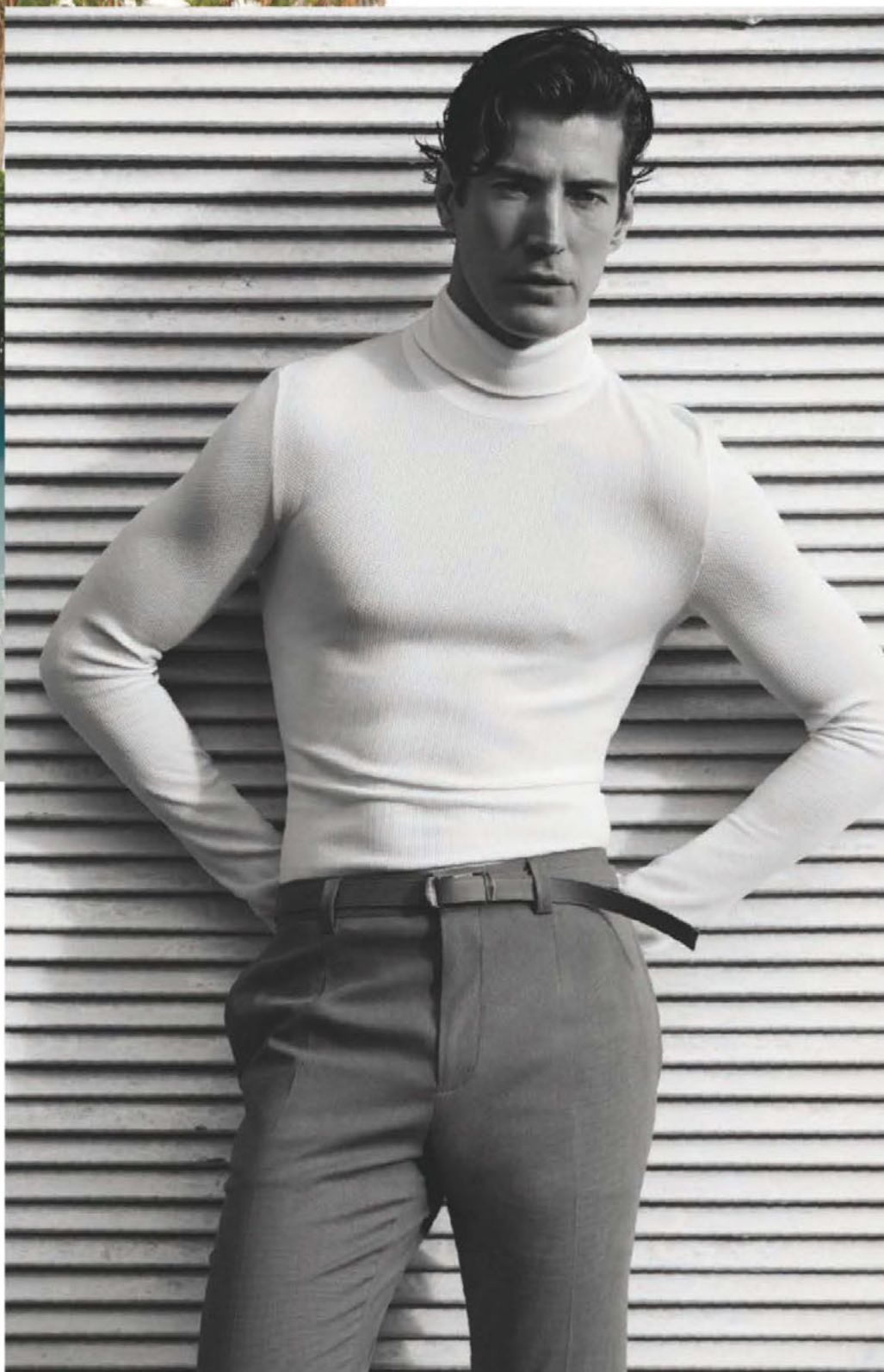
THIS PAGE: *Boglioli* cotton-and-linen
horizontal-stripe jacket, \$1,095, and
trousers, \$345 (boglioli.it); *Gucci*
silk tank top, \$625 (gucci.com).





THIS PAGE: *Louis Vuitton*
cotton-and-silk turtleneck, \$990
(louisvuitton.com); *Dolce & Gabbana*
silk pants with belt, \$625 (dolce
gabbana.it).

OPPOSITE: *Ermenegildo Zegna*
cotton shirt, \$950, and cotton-and-silk
trousers, \$1,500 (zegna.com).






WHITE HEAT

THIS PAGE: *Stefano Ricci*
double-breasted suit in wool, silk, and linen,
and three-button silk polo shirt, prices
upon request (stefanoricci.com).

OPPOSITE: *Hermès* cotton shirt,
\$980 (hermes.com); *Bottega Veneta* cotton
pants, \$830 (bottegaveneta.com).



Stylist's assistant:
Marc Anthony George
Photographer's technician:
Liudi Hara
Local assistants:
Jon Davis and
Johnpaul Cunningham
Model:
Oriol Elcacho, IMG 





Waves of Color

AS WINTER RETREATS, COLOR RETURNS TO THE LANDSCAPE, AND THE ADVENTURER IN EACH OF US RETURNS TO THE WARMING WATERS. ON THE BEACH OR ABOARD A BOAT, WE EMBRACE ACTION AND THE ELEMENTS IN DESIGNER SPORTSWEAR THAT COMBINES LIGHTWEIGHT, HIGH-PERFORMANCE FABRICS WITH A PALETTE OF BRIGHT, BOLD HUES THAT WILL MAKE WAVES—ONSHORE AND OFF.

Photography by **David Roemer**

Styling by **Christopher Campbell**

Photographed at the **Ritz-Carlton Residences, Miami Beach**

Cigarette Racing Team boat provided by **Lip-Ship Performance**



OPPOSITE: *Brioni* floral-print silk jacket, \$3,200 (brioni.com), and *Calvin Klein* nylon hooded shell, \$1,050 (calvinklein.com). THIS PAGE: *Ralph Lauren Purple Label* nylon lined jacket, \$2,495, and nylon swim trunks, \$450 (ralphlauren.com); *Cartier* stainless-steel Calibre de Cartier Diver watch, \$8,200 (cartier.com).

Kiton leather hooded jacket, \$9,120 (kiton.it);
Thorsun recycled-polyester swim trunks, \$255 (thorsun.com); **Carrera** sunglasses, \$159 (at Solstice Sunglasses, solsticesunglasses.com); **Cartier** stainless-steel Calibre de Cartier Diver watch, \$8,200 (cartier.com).





Gucci stretch
cotton poplin pants, \$1,070
(gucci.com); **Dior Homme**
cotton knit tank top, \$1,400,
and nylon twill anorak, \$3,100
(diorhomme.com); **Z Zegna**
yellow windbreaker, \$695
(zegna.com).

WAVES OF COLOR

Calvin Klein nylon hooded shell, \$1,050, and **Calvin Klein Collection** solar pilot sunglasses, \$350 (calvinklein.com); **Tom Ford** nylon bathing suit, \$590 (tomford.com); **Louis Vuitton** leather sneakers, \$750 (louisvuitton.com); **Cartier** 18-karat-rose-gold Calibre de Cartier Diver watch, \$28,100 (cartier.com).





Louis Vuitton polyamide jacket, \$2,540, and trousers, \$1,800 (louisvuitton.com).



Paul & Shark turquoise nylon jacket, \$695 (paulshark.it); *Michael Kors* cotton poplin anorak, \$395 (michaelkors.com); *Gucci* cotton sweater, \$990 (gucci.com); *Cartier* stainless-steel Calibre de Cartier Diver watch, \$8,200 (cartier.com).

Isaia cotton-and-linen sweater, \$395 (isaia.it), and five-pocket denim pants, \$495 (at Saks Fifth Avenue, saksfifthavenue.com); **Hermès** silk bandana, \$195 (hermes.com); **Ralph Lauren** suede driving shoes, \$425 (ralphlauren.com); **Cartier** stainless-steel Calibre de Cartier Diver watch, \$8,200 (cartier.com).



Bright Impressions

The vibrant colors shown on these pages also appeared in the men's spring fashion shows.

For a pop of color, here are some of the top runway looks.



Boglioli

Michael Bastian

Z Zegna

Gieves & Hawkes

Hermès

Bally

The Location

The setting of the forthcoming Ritz-Carlton Residences, Miami Beach (theresidencesmiami.beach.com), brilliantly complements the bright-colored sportswear featured on these pages. Situated on 7 acres on the shores of Surprise Lake, the property offers 111 condominiums and 15 stand-alone villas designed by the renowned Italian architect Piero Lissoni. The modernist sensibility of Lissoni's architecture extends to the interiors, which boast Boffi kitchens and bathrooms and Gaggenau appliances. Amenities include 36 private boat slips, gardens, pools, and entertainment spaces.



Model: **Geoffroy Jonckheere**, Soul Artist Management

Stylist's assistant: **Marc Anthony George**

Photographer's technician: **Liudi Hara**

Local assistants: **Jon Davis** and **Johnpaul Cunningham**

Groomer: **Helen Anderson**, Artist Management 

THE YACHTING LIFESTYLE



Photo Courtesy of Oceanco

The beauty of yachting is its sheer versatility, and the world of opportunities it opens for adventure and friendship. One can charter a yacht on the Riviera, anchoring in coastal gems like Portofino and dining on fresh seafood and local wine at a waterfront café. Or one can sail into the heart of the Caribbean, diving the British Virgin Islands' wrecks and exploring breathtaking islands or rubbing elbows with the glitterati on St. Barts. The world's most exciting islands—the Galápagos, Fiji, Santorini and many that are nearly off the charts—are best seen by yacht. ➤

THE YACHTING LIFESTYLE

A yacht is a beautiful way to expand your horizons in glorious comfort. But when that yacht is a Heesen, it can be still so much more. Only a Heesen yacht can take you to the destinations of your dreams by pushing the boundaries of quality, performance, and design and offering the high level of luxury service you are accustomed to in your daily life.

Voyage to the next level without compromise.

We are not just yacht builders; we are also dream builders. We owe it to our customers to exceed their expectations, and to do so we push our boundaries every day without compromise. This commitment, combined with excellent customer service, allows them to enjoy their yachts to the fullest. This is the way it has always been, ever since Frans Heesen founded the company in 1978 and we first began creating yachts beyond belief.

HeesenYachts.com

HEESEN



Of course, the ultimate way to see the world is aboard one's own yacht. Shipyards across Europe and North America continue to create the most exquisite yachts, blending beautiful, contemporary design and the latest structural engineering. Many of the world's best-regarded, and most highly awarded, shipyards are found in this lifestyle section.

Benetti, the iconic Italian shipyard, has been building stunning yachts since 1872. Its latest Veloce 140' and Vivace 125' Fast Class Displacement superyachts are legitimate trendsetters, with state-of-the-art hulls that deliver incredible fuel efficiency while also allowing for a very fast top speed. The Italian yard has also been supersizing its custom

yacht builds, with the near completion of a 295-foot (90-meter) gigayacht. And more exceptional yacht builds over 328 feet (100 meters) are in the works.

Heesen has also turned out a number of breakthrough yachts since its founding by Frans Heesen in 1978. The Dutch yard continues to win international awards

for innovative design, quality construction, and meticulous detailing in its craftsmanship. Project Kometa, at 230 feet (70 meters), is its largest to date, incorporating a beautiful interior with a fast displacement hull that will reach almost 30 knots.

Sunseeker is a British builder that is a global force, with six lines of yachts that are

on the leading edge of yacht design. Its new Predator 57 is a prime example: sleek, stylish and spacious, with an interior that is both elegant and informal. This yacht is a fast, seaworthy luxury apartment on the water. Wider, based in Italy, is also known for its innovative design. The shipyard has a 42-footer with wings that fold out from the hulls, ➤

DAY OR NIGHT, KOMETA IS ENDLESS.

Kometa is 70 metres of infinite ideas. From sun deck to cinema, beach club to waterside cocktail lounge, helicopter deck to open-air theatre – day to night, with 357 square metres of deck space, she transforms into whatever you need her to be. Already past the initial stages of construction, Kometa will be delivered in 2016.



HEESENYACHTS.COM

THE YACHTING LIFESTYLE

Benetti, one of the world's most highly respected shipyards, continues to create many pioneering designs. Its first Fast Class superyacht was introduced last spring. After months of cruising the Mediterranean, the fast, elegant Veloce 140' is now visiting the Americas and the Caribbean. The flagship Veloce 140' will be joined by the Vivace 125', which will be launched this summer.

"After delivering that first Veloce 140', we are now building seven more Fast Class Displacement yachts for delivery," says Vincenzo Poerio, CEO of Benetti. "Our clients love the technological advantages of these yachts. They also love the choice of running in either displacement or planing modes."

The Fast Class's innovative Displacement-to-Planing (D2P) hull is another world first from the Italian shipyard. This innovative design delivers incredible fuel efficiency in displacement mode. But the yachts can also run into the mid-20-knot range in planing mode. The designers Redman Whiteley Dixon created three very different interiors for the Fast Class Displacement (Air, Sea, and Earth), while Benetti provides customization. The first Veloce 140', for instance, has a full gymnasium where the master suite would have been, since the owners will spend months cruising on their superyacht.

Benetti is also revered for its full custom yachts. The 197-foot Formosa, a recent launch, is a five-deck colossus with a richly detailed interior by Sinot Design Studio. "The market is moving towards ever-larger yachts," says Poerio. "We're completing a 90-meter [295-foot] custom yacht, and signed a contract for another over 100 meters [328 feet]."

Beyond innovative designs, Benetti has also invested significant resources into client services. Its new Fort Lauderdale office has the same fit and finish as a superyacht, with detailed joinery, beautiful marble floors, and soft metallic finishes. "We built it to the same high standards as our yachts," says Poerio. "Many U.S. clients don't have the time to fly to Italy. Our architects can meet them in this office. It is so much easier to show them what we can do."

BenettiYachts.it

BENETTI





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benettiyachts.it

CLASS F



125'



140'

CLASS D



93'



Tradition Supreme 108'

121'



132'



140'



145'

CUSTOM



Over 45 metres

Benetti
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THE YACHTING LIFESTYLE

Since its inception in 1987, Oceanco has earned a worldwide reputation for building the most sophisticated superyachts to the highest standards of technological achievement. Oceanco has unique qualifications and resources to build the largest and most complex yachts to meet the market's demands. The company's yacht-building facility is located in the Netherlands and is expanding to include state-of-the-art sheds and dry docks for yachts up to 459 feet (140 meters). Oceanco has solidified its name within the superyacht industry as the premium builder of 262- to 295-foot (80- to 90-meter) superyachts by launching nine of the world's finest luxury yachts, including the 269-foot (82-meter) *Alfa Nero*, the 290-foot (88.5-meter) *Nirvana*, and the 300-foot (91.5-meter) *Equanimity*.

Several other large yachts are currently under construction, and concepts and design plans are moving forward for a number of large custom private yachts in the 295- to 394-foot (90- to 120-meter) range. Continuous research and development is wrapped around the constant search for new shapes, materials, and technologies. Oceanco is conscious of the environmental impact of building, owning, and operating a superyacht.

OceancoYacht.com

to double its width, and a 32-footer that looks both retro and futuristic. Its new 150-foot superyacht promises many breakthroughs for the yachting world.

Oceanco is a king in the custom-yacht world and a winner of many international design awards. Its collection of custom yachts are as

noteworthy for their aesthetic beauty as their depth of engineering. Its bespoke approach to yacht ownership, which combines a client-centered office in Monaco with state-of-the-art shipbuilding facilities in the Netherlands, makes it one of the true bespoke superyacht builders. Oceanco

OCEANCO



has launched some of the world's most impressive yachts, from 123 to 312 feet. Its 384-foot gigayacht called the Titan Project promises to create a fresh, exciting chapter in the yachting world.

Camper & Nicholson's, a global leader in

sales, charter, yacht management, and construction, is a full-service firm that offers expertise in every facet of yachting. Its sales and charter brokers can make any dream come true for yacht lovers or anyone who craves adventures on the sea.

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ShowBoats Design Awards 2013 Winner

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THE YACHTING LIFESTYLE

Sunseeker, one of yachting's icons, builds six lines of yachts, from 40 to 155 feet. The British brand, with a new model featured in every James Bond movie since 1999, is known for the stunning profiles, seakeeping, and performance of its yachts.

But yachting aficionados know that a Sunseeker is much more than just a fast, beautiful boat. "Our brand is global because we've designed our boats around every facet of the yachting lifestyle, which makes the Sunseeker highly adaptable," says Nick Bischoff, vice president of sales for Sunseeker USA. "They're fast, sexy, and beautiful. But the appeal has just as much to do with their craftsmanship, quality, and durability."

Sunseeker pushes the leading edge of design, often setting trends, with new models like the Predator 57', Manhattan 65', and 86' Yacht. The yard's ability to customize vessels attracts owners who want a more bespoke yacht. "We take the time to do the custom work," says Bischoff. "It shows in the quality and details of every personalized yacht. That's part of the prestige of owning a Sunseeker, and it's why we have such a high retention rate."

Sunseeker.com

and best practices in housekeeping, global etiquette, personal care, security, medical care, and so many more services.

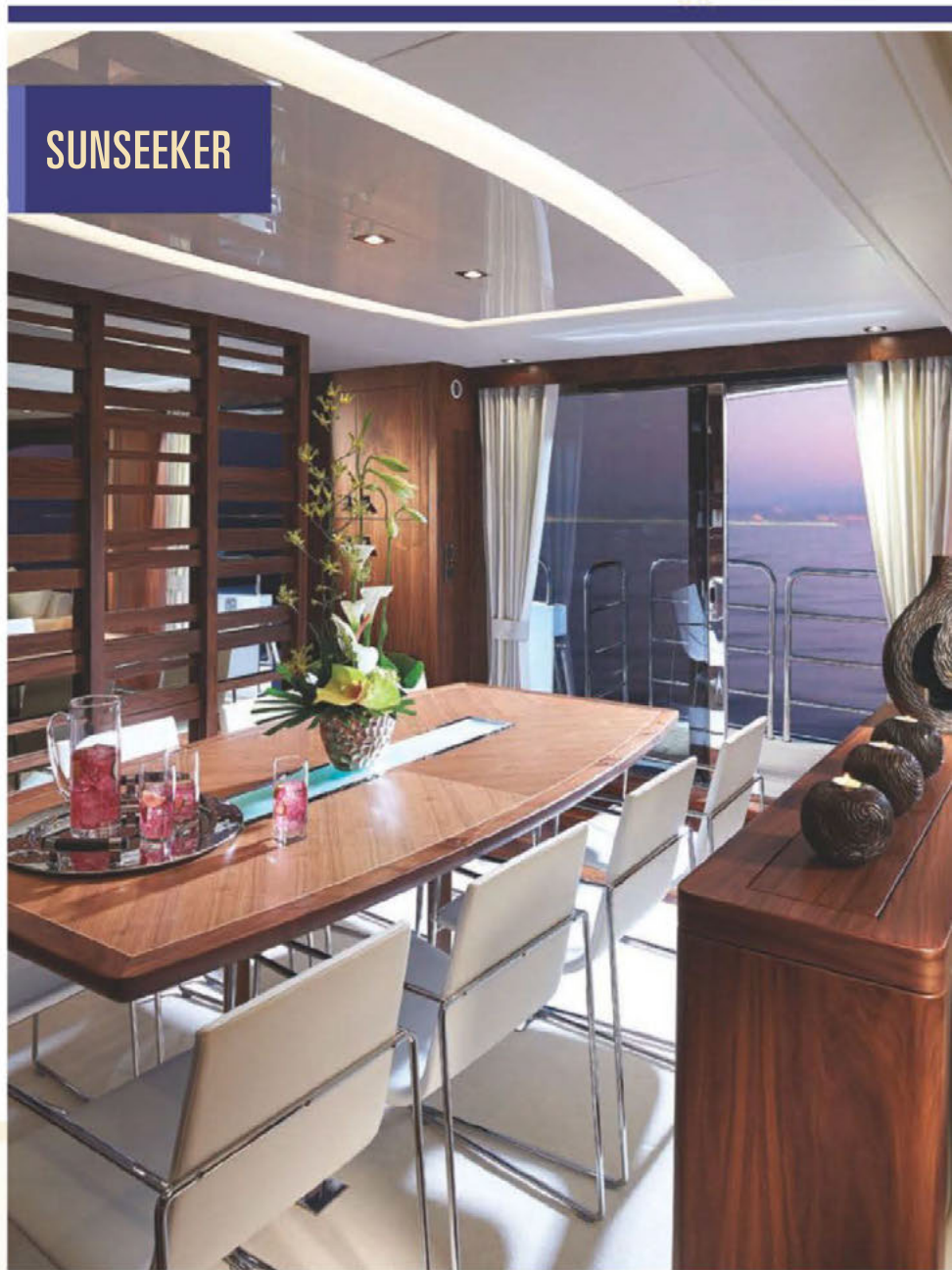
Of course, the best way to learn more about yachting is by visiting some of the leading boat shows. The Palm Beach

International Boat Show, which takes place in downtown West Palm Beach from March 26 through 29, is considered a great show for seeing an ensemble of yachts of all sizes. It's truly an international event, attracting buyers and sellers from all over the world. It's also

compact enough to allow attendees to see the yachts in an intimate surrounding, overlooking Palm Beach Island. The show is considered the annual anchor for the local marine industry.

Perhaps the finest way to end a day on the water, either aboard a yacht or in a marina café, is with a world-class cigar. Arturo Fuente, known globally for its premium cigars, will enhance any

yachting occasion. Yachters often enjoy their favorite Arturo Fuente cigars onboard with friends, or deep in thought, inspired by beautiful surrounding waters.



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THE YACHTING LIFESTYLE

Yachting has always been associated with the good life. Fine wine, scrumptious seafood, and of course hand-rolled cigars all taste better on the deck of a yacht. But yachters are also particular about the cigars they enjoy.

Arturo Fuente's Gran Reserva, Chateau Fuente, Don Carlos, Hemingway, Añejo, and Fuente Fuente OpusX have been favorite bands of boaters for decades. The reigning family of cigar makers, which began operations in 1912, is renowned for the quality and individual character of its cigars.

The limited-edition ForbiddenX may just be the crown jewel of cigars in the yachting world. "We have created unique cigars for four generations, using vintage tobaccos and wrappers," says Carlos Fuente, Jr. "Every step in the process is done by hand, with no shortcuts, so our cigars are among the world's finest. But we've reached a new level with the ForbiddenX."

The world's most serious aficionados appreciate the craftsmanship that goes into the exclusive cigar. The ForbiddenX uses seven different types of tobacco, incorporating the select middle primings for a sweeter profile. The binder and filler are aged in French Calvados Grand Pommier Barrels from Normandy for its excellence. The corajo wrapper, again using the select cuts from the leaf, is grown at Chateau de la Fuente's tobacco plantation. "We see this as the ultimate cigar for the yachting lifestyle," says Fuente. "It is for occasions like a special day on the water, occasions that call for a celebration."

The cigar is so special that Arturo Fuente partnered with the Swiss watchmaker Hublot to create the ForbiddenX watch. The exclusive timepiece is stunning, with an artistic touch only Hublot could provide. Real tobacco leaves are engineered into the dial as part of its overall design. "We see this beautiful timepiece as more than a collector's item," says Fuente. "It is a celebration of the art of living well."

ArturoFuente.com

ARTURO FUENTE



THE YACHTING LIFESTYLE

Camper & Nicholson's is the global leader in all luxury yachting activities, specializing in the sale, purchase, charter, marketing, management, and construction of the finest yachts in the world.

First founded in 1782 as a construction shipyard, Camper & Nicholson's made its name synonymous with expertise, market knowledge, design-and-build excellence, and effortless performance—characteristics that are still echoed in the company's core values today. The company's team of dedicated sales and charter brokers, charter marketing agents, yacht managers, and marketing specialists and staff all share a genuine passion for being at sea and collectively possess a range of experience and knowledge far beyond that of anyone else in the industry.

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- Ernest Hemingway



M/Y Polar Star 63.4m/208' Lürssen, 2005/2011



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1782

THE YACHTING LIFESTYLE

The Palm Beach International Boat Show is arguably the best spring collection of yachts and boats in North America. Taking place March 26 through 29, the boat show on Flagler Drive's waterfront features hundreds of boats ranging from small tenders to 200-foot superyachts.

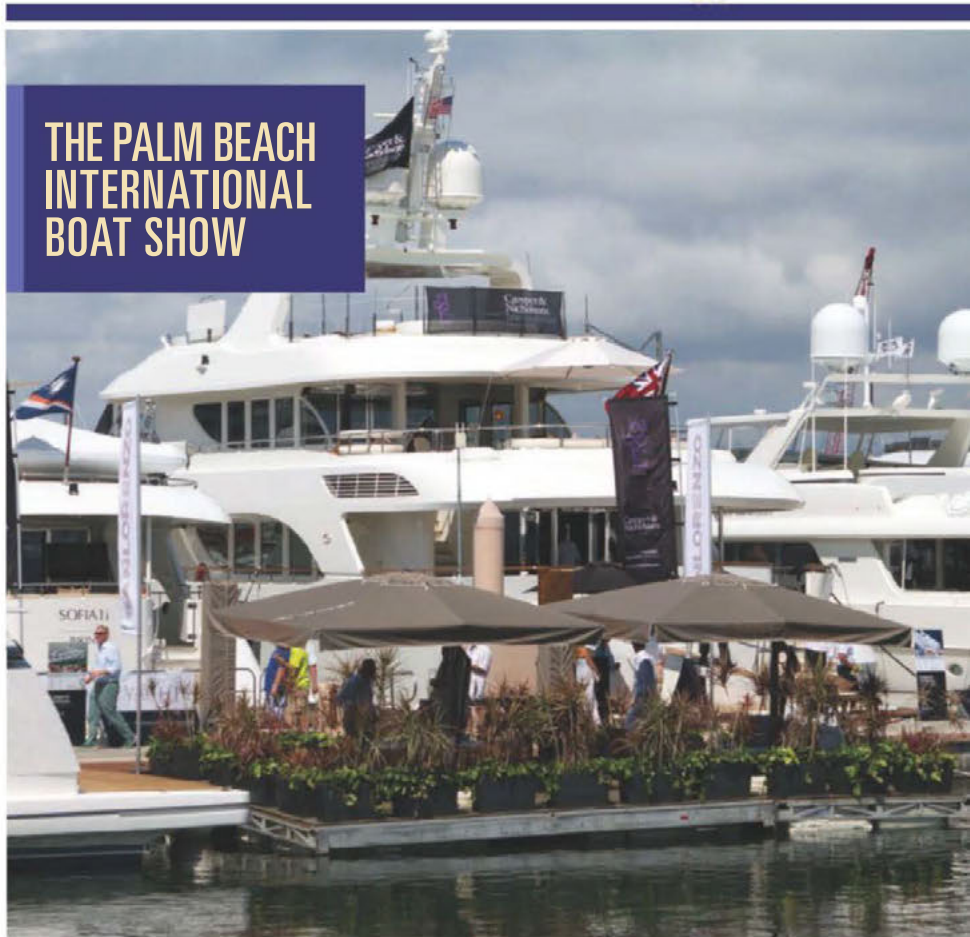
Yacht lovers from all over the world are drawn to this show, partly because of its private, intimate feel, but also because it has assembled the top yacht brands across many boat categories. Show Management, the event's organizer, has also added water-sports activities and seminars to this year's edition. A display of marine art from world-renowned artists and a swimwear fashion show will also take place.

The Palm Beach show has grown to be among the top five boat shows in North America. Owned by the Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County, it serves as an anchor to the area's thriving marine industry. According to a 2014 study, the Palm Beach marine industry had an estimated \$1.8 billion gross output for the economy. The industry is also associated with 18,220 jobs, more than double the figure from 2010.

Palm Beach County is a thriving boating community; in 2013, it had 36,852 registered boats. The 30th annual edition of the Palm Beach International Boat Show will be presented by Lincoln and Palm Harbor Marina and cosponsored by Gosling's Rum, Yachts International magazine, Smallwood's Yachtwear, Geico, Budweiser, and the Palm Beach Post.

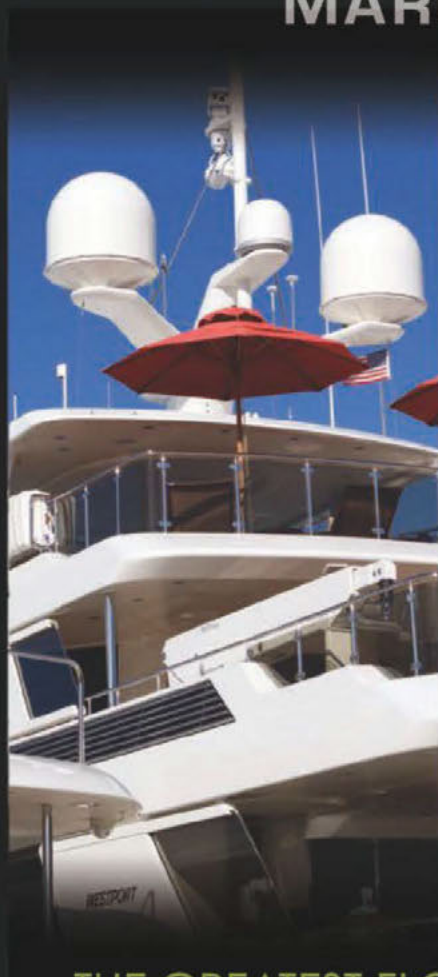
ShowManagement.com

THE PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW



THE PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

MARCH 26-29, 2015



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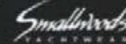
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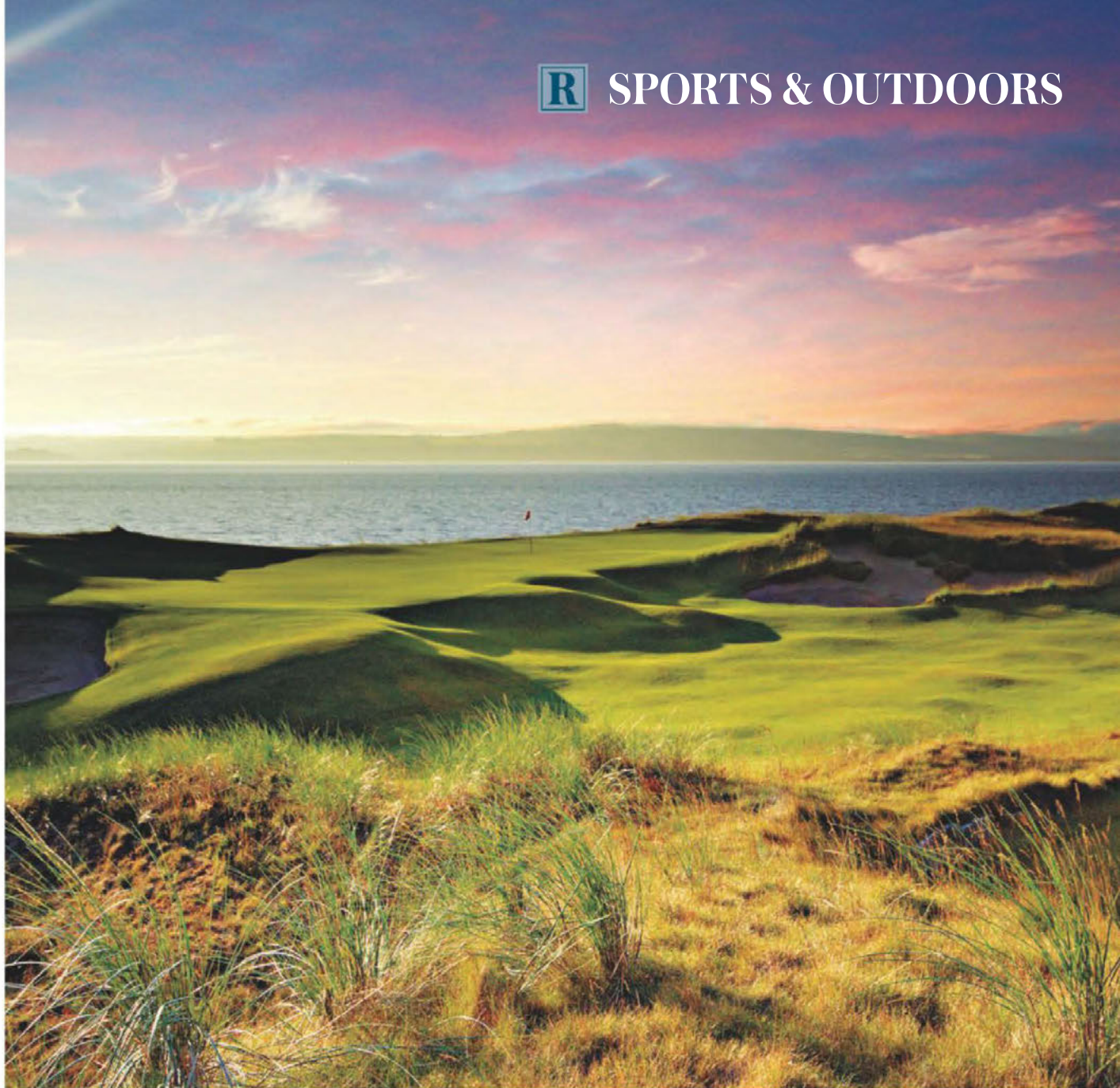
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Links to the Past

THE BELMOND ROYAL SCOTSMAN'S SCOTTISH GOLF TOUR OFFERS THE TYPES OF EXPERIENCES GOLFERS ENJOYED A CENTURY AGO. **BY SHAUN TOLSON**

Castle Stuart is relatively new—it opened in 2009—but it has all the characteristics of a classic Scottish links course.

THE BELMOND ROYAL SCOTSMAN speeds north along the rails toward Tain, a small coastal village in the Scottish Highlands, where the train eventually will stop for the night while the passengers sleep in their marquetry-lined cabins. But before that, having enjoyed a dinner of salmon tartare, roasted guinea fowl, and strawberry-and-vanilla crème brûlée, the passengers adjourn to the observation car. In the evenings, the car's curtains are drawn and it transforms into a performance space. Tonight, the first night of the Royal Scotsman's Scottish Golf Tour, a guitar-and-fiddle duo are playing Scottish folk songs.



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TOP 25 CIGARS OF THE YEAR

No. 1

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SPORTS & OUTDOORS

Near the end of their set, the musicians break from traditional melodies and perform a rendition of "Wagon Wheel," a song cowritten by Bob Dylan and made famous more recently by the Nashville string band Old Crow Medicine Show. With an afternoon round at the Royal Dornoch Golf Club scheduled for the next day, it seems fitting to serenade the passengers with a song that references a train and the wind and the rain, and expounds on the virtues of the North Carolina landscape. Royal Dornoch has been known to torment golfers with rain and blustery, unpredictable winds, and it was there that Donald Ross learned from Thomas Morris—better known as Old Tom Morris—the trade of course design. Ross went on to create more than 400 golf courses throughout the United States, including Pinehurst No. 2, his masterpiece in the sand hills of North Carolina.

Following the performance, conversation with the musicians turns to golf. The guitarist bemoans the rounds he plays with a member of his home course. The player is too careful, the guitarist says. On par 4s, he typically uses a 7-iron off the tee, hits another 7-iron approach, and, with a wedge, pitches onto the green to a distance that leaves a makeable putt for par. "Where's the fun in that?" the guitarist asks. "There's no excitement in that."

He prefers to grip it and rip it, seeking to hit a memorable shot worthy of reliving over a pint after the round. This style of aggressive play has come to define the game in most parts of the world. But in Scotland, especially on traditional, treeless links courses—so called because of their coastal settings that link the land to the sea—a shot need not look impressive to be effective. The winds coming off the water can wreak havoc with an airborne drive or approach shot; instead of trying to hit the ball high and long, better to strike it low and hard and rely on good bounces on the firm fairways, and long rolls. In this respect, Scotland's links, where the modern game was invented, have preserved the way golf was originally played. This is especially true of the Highlands courses on the Royal Scotsman tour, which offers golfers an additional sense of history by

transporting them aboard a luxury train—the same way many affluent golfers visited the seaside clubs in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

For 30 years now, the Royal Scotsman has carried travelers throughout the Scottish countryside, visiting historic castles, private gardens, whisky distilleries, and other attractions. The train is owned and operated by Belmond, which runs four others in the United Kingdom and around the world and owns a collection of luxury hotels. Belmond began offering the Scottish Golf Tour last year, after hosting numerous private golfing trips on the train. The next tour—a journey of five days, four nights, and three rounds—departs from Edinburgh on June 1 and returns June 5. The cost is \$8,270 per person. For an additional \$800, passengers can depart a day earlier and play a round on the PGA Centenary Course at the Gleneagles Hotel, the host course for the 2014 Ryder Cup. In addition to Royal Dornoch, the 2015 tour will stop at Castle Stuart Golf Links and the Trump International Golf Club.

Royal Dornoch is the oldest course on the itinerary. The 18-hole championship layout was finalized by Morris in 1886, and 20 years later the club was granted its royal status by King Edward VII. Sam Baker of Cincinnati joined Royal Dornoch in 1993, though his first experience with Scottish links came six years earlier and more than 200 miles to the south, at the Prestwick Golf Club, which was formed in 1851. Baker became so enamored of authentic links golf that in 1991 he established Haversham & Baker Golf Expeditions, a travel company that specializes in arranging golf excursions to the British Isles and other international destinations. He says golf in Scotland is "a different, creative game. On a golf course as rock-hard as an airport runway, you may hit a 7-iron from 200 yards and knock it down and run it for 50 yards. That's the great thing about links golf: The ball just rolls forever if you hit it the right way.

"In modern golf architecture," he continues, "we're trying to take the unpredictability out of the game of golf, and that's unfortunate. In the beginning, the game



The Highlands courses on the Royal Scotsman tour have preserved the way golf was originally played.

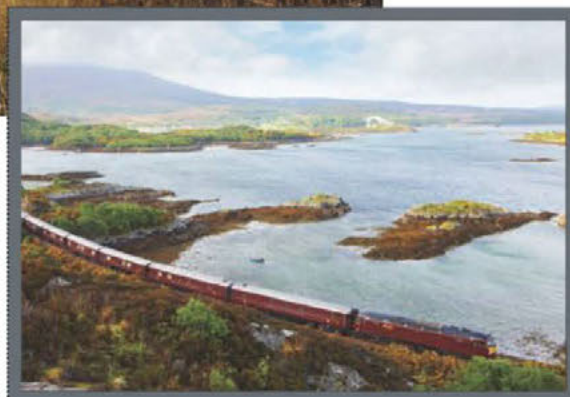
was all about crafting shots and living with your bounces.”

A round at Royal Dornoch can include plenty of unpredictable scenarios. On the sixth hole, a 161-yard par 3 that plays slightly uphill to a green seemingly cut out of the gorse-covered hillside, my tee shot falls back to earth, according to my caddy, only a foot or so short of the targeted landing area. But golf is sometimes a game of inches, and a dozen too few or too many can be enough to sabotage a shot. Instead of releasing onto the green and toward the hole, my ball trickles back down the steep embankment, leaving me with a 20-yard second shot that must first travel up a 7-foot bank and across a fast, granite-like green. Elsewhere, this would call for a wedge, but here at Dornoch my caddy recommends the putter.

Trusting his advice and his line—and praying that I hit the shot with the right amount of strength—I send the ball on its way and clamber up the slope to watch. It breaks to the right, funnels toward the hole, and comes to rest just on the back edge of the cup. My caddy cannot believe that the putt did not go in. I am amazed that I escaped the hole with a par.

The Scottish strategy of putting from points off the green figured into golf-course developer Mark Parsinen’s plans for Kingsbarns in St. Andrews, which opened in 2000, and Castle Stuart, which opened in 2009. Parsinen, who spends most of his time in California, began playing golf in Scotland 45 years ago. “Greenside bunkers are great for really great players,” he says, “but for average players, nothing good ever happens in them.” Parsinen helped design both courses to be punishing but still playable around the greens. “A putt from 40 feet through a big contour is difficult,” he acknowledges, “but the average player with a putter in his hands is hopeful. To be without hope is a bad thing in golf.”

At Castle Stuart, the fairways can also offer hope to the average player. Take the 14th hole, a par 4 that plays 386 yards from the back tees. The fairway is 50 yards wide and sparsely bunkered; but the entire right side is strewn with what the locals call rumple, a series of small hills and hollows that evoke ski-slope moguls. The rumple leads to uneven, tightly mown lies that leave little margin for error for players who try to flip a



wedge onto the green. The prudent plan, Parsinen says, is to play down the left side, where the approach can produce a clear shot to the green.

My tee shot strays too far to the left, but a playable lie in the rough has me contemplating a strong 9-iron. I would be comfortable hitting such a shot back home, but not here. I return the club to the bag, pull out a 7-iron, and hit a knockdown approach that bounces onto the green, rolls nearly the length of it, and settles less than 3 feet from the hole. The shot serves as one of the Royal Scotsman tour’s many reminders that when the game is played on a genuine links course, it is still defined by the bounces and rolls—some of which can be very gratifying. **R**

Belmond Royal Scotsman,
belmond.com/royal-scotsman-train

On the last Scottish Golf Tour, the Royal Scotsman (above, top) visited Cruden Bay (above, bottom) visited Cruden Bay (above, top). The next tour will instead stop at Trump International.

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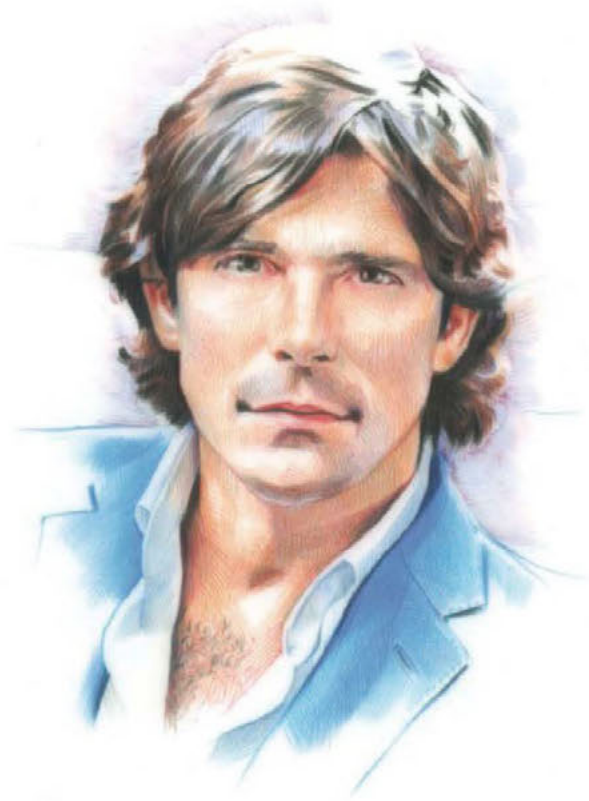
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Ignacio “Nacho” Figueras

A CONVERSATION WITH THE ARGENTINE
POLO PLAYER AND HORSE BREEDER.

SINCE STEPPING INTO the international spotlight more than a decade ago as a model for Ralph Lauren, Ignacio “Nacho” Figueras has proven that his talents are more than skin deep. The Argentine athlete, who turns 38 this month, is ranked as one of the top polo players on the planet, across which he travels to compete and share his love of the sport (see “Ponying Up,” page 84). When not traveling, Figueras retreats to his family farm, where he has amassed one of the world’s finest collections of polo ponies. —CAROLYN MEERS

Tell us about your farm.

It’s out in the country, outside Buenos Aires, and we are building a big 44-stall modern barn at Figueras Polo Club, a property right next to my house that is about 60 to 70 percent finished. [Ludwig] Mies van der Rohe, Luis Barragán, and Tadao Ando are my three favorite architects, and I took ingredients from all three when I was designing

the barn. [Mies] van der Rohe inspired the simplicity of the design, and the barn’s fountain was inspired by Barragán’s use of water in his designs. I’ve always said that if I were not a polo player, I would have been an architect, creating equestrian properties around the world. But let’s finish my barn first and make sure everything works.

Do you have influences from the art world?

I gravitate toward modern design, both in art and architecture. It has the most impact on me and inspires me. I like Jackson Pollock and Warhol; Warhol and Basquiat are my favorites. I have one Warhol (*Tammy Grimes’s Feet*), but no Basquiat and no Pollocks yet. I’m working on it!

Do you collect anything else?

When I was growing up out in the country I was very into sports, so I spent most of my time playing polo and tennis. But I would collect eggs with a friend of mine. We had more than 100 eggs, from hummingbirds to a rhea, which is almost as big as an ostrich. Now I collect horses. I have a very big breeding operation. I consider it a collection of different bloodlines from the best polo horses in the world. In building the new barn, I wanted to create a kind of museum where I could put all of these pieces of art—my horses—which I have been collecting for the past 10 or 12 years. I have about 500 now.

Out of all the hundreds of horses, is there a favorite?

A mare called Sue Ellen. She is a famous polo pony. She’s played in so many tournaments and won many accolades. She is a highly decorated horse, and in February she was inducted into the Hall of Fame, at the Museum of Polo in Florida.

Your birthday is approaching. What is the best gift you have ever received?

A silver heart necklace that my wife, Delfina, gave me on our wedding day. It has her name on it and our wedding date.

Do you play any other sports besides polo and tennis?

I go skiing at least once or twice a year with my family. But I push my luck every single day when I play polo, so I leave the life-threatening sports for someone else.

Where do you like to vacation?

My family loves José Ignacio in Uruguay. We go to Aspen to ski. We also hang out at our farm, and just spend time together. I travel so much year-round to play polo that our vacation is to stay home! **R**



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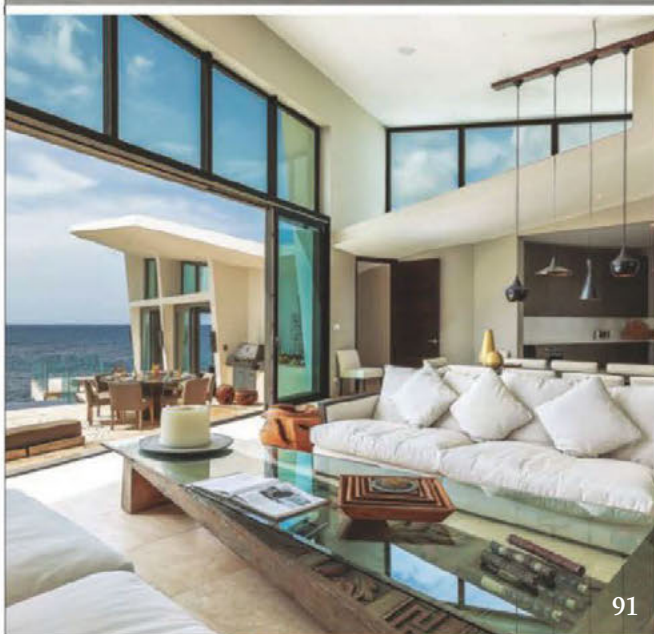
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MEDA, ITALY

Overhead Protectors

Paola Lenti's outdoor parasols make taking cover from spring sun or light showers a most stylish endeavor.

✱ **These parasols** from the Italian company Paola Lenti do not shrink from the elements. On the contrary, the Bistrò outdoor umbrellas (priced from about \$8,500 to \$9,000) stand ready, rain or shine, to shield in smart style those who take shelter. Available with shades that open into either flat or domed spheres, the pieces have frames of varnished, corrosion-resistant aluminum, and, for a flawlessly cohesive look, the fiberglass rods that raise the shades are the same color as the frame. Acquiring the umbrellas will require some difficult decision making: whether to choose

classic-cool Madras (two versions shown) or low-key Tamil fabrics for the shade, and how to configure a Bistrò for one's particular poolside setting or other backyard space. Paola Lenti's Clique series of seating poufs (about \$4,200 to \$4,500) and adjustable side tables (roughly \$1,350 to \$1,600) have been designed by Francesco Rota to pair with the parasols for the perfectly polished look shown here. [ARIANNE NARDO]

Paola Lenti, paolalenti.it; available in the United States through Luminaire, 305.576.5788, luminaire.com



DESIGN SEEN



PARIS

ROUGE ABSOLU

For more than 20 years, G raldine Prieur has adorned homes, boutiques, and hotels, and now the designer is debuting a zesty line of furniture, fabric, and accessories through her Parisian studio, Rouge Absolu. Each numbered piece in the series is an indulgence of traditional French craftsmanship embellished with artistic joinery. Leather, velvet, flannel, and wood are among the materials used, and the Babylone floor lamp (shown; from \$7,340) is an exuberant m lange of French walnut and lacquer. +33.1.42.61.6161, rougeabsolu.com



LONDON

Francis Sultana

An ideal ambassador of Francis Sultana's tailored elegance, the Enrique console (\$13,120) features patinated bronze legs and a lacquered linen surface. Sultana spent years seeking out the artisans who meticulously render each example by hand. Custom options, such as seven different colors of lacquered linen and three bronze finishes, are available. +44.20.7589.5946, francissultana.com



COMO, ITALY

TURRI

This 90-year-old company is making the bygone grand entrance fashionable again. The fourth-generation furniture maker approaches interior doors as blank canvases, relying on its archive of designs and customizations. Pegaso (shown) is a high-gloss, Deco-inspired number fashioned from solid wood, which features a sand *tamponato*, or buffered, effect in creamy white and a glamorous leather treatment. +39.03.1760.1111, turri.it

BROOKLYN, N.Y.

Hellman-Chang

With its distinct version of Brooklyn's handcrafted movement, Hellman-Chang captured the attention of design aficionados in 2006 with a handsome furniture collection trimmed with sartorial crispness and dipped in java-rich tones. This spring, with its foray into seating, the studio is releasing the Tao daybed (available to the trade; \$10,950 without fabric). The hand-carved piece with Eastern flair is a confident emissary for the artisanal brand. 212.875.0424, hellman-chang.com



FAR LEFT: ALEXIS NARODETZKY; TOP RIGHT: MARTIN SLIVKA



THE TOTAL BODY SYSTEM BY FLOU. THE POSITIVES OF WELLNESS.

Flou has created the Total Body System – collections of duvets that have been filled with miniscule particles of bio-ceramic and silver; this improves blood circulation and facilitates a restful night in absolute wellness. The Total Body System was designed to be used with all of the beds and linens in the Flou collections. This allows you, the customer, to select the most beautiful designs and patterns. The Total Body System will provide wellness during rest and relaxation.

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DESIGN SEEN



LONDON

Barocelli

Even traditionalists cannot deny the sculptural lure of the Arlo chandelier (\$9,360) by Barocelli. With its cosmopolitan take on the centuries-old manufacturing traditions of Murano, where it has a workshop, the two-decades-old company has infused the modern LED fixture with warmth. Arlo merges crystal rods and metal "halos" finished in satin gold. The series also includes a lamp and three wall lights. 212.255.2005, barocelli.com



NEW YORK CITY

OLATZ

The vision of Olatz Schnabel, this Manhattan shop offers the designer's handmade bedding, as well as her silk pajamas and other apparel and accessories for the home. The Egyptian cotton sheets, custom embroidered shams, and other desirables drape boudoirs in striking modern sets. Artisans in Portugal produce the custom monogramming for the Royal series (shown; from \$400). 212.255.8627, olatz.com

MIAMI

Luxury Living Group

Located in the design district, Living Luxury Group's newest Miami showroom is devoted to high-wattage brands from the group's portfolio, including Bentley Home and Fendi Outdoor. The 7,700-square-foot space includes three fully equipped kitchen experiences, and it houses the most extensive display of Fendi Casa Ambiente Cucina (shown) in North America. 786.409.5558, luxurylivinggroup.com



BOSTON

Bar Boulud

Vintage oak adorns the walls, the marble charcuterie counter invites lingering, and the bustle of Boylston Street right outside feels far away. Boston's new go-to bistro owes its ambience to interior designer Adam D. Tihany. He has collaborated with chef Daniel Boulud before, and at this winery-inspired spot inside the Mandarin Oriental, French fare mingles with New England classics. 617.535.8800, barboulud.com



BARCELONA, SPAIN

RUEDIGER BENEDIKT

The creations of the Barcelona-based designer are as exclusive as they are arresting. Ruediger Benedikt's Leaping Horse caviar *présentoir* (starting at \$22,000) is cast in bronze via the lost-wax process and plated in 24-karat gold. Soon he will debut a line of tableware embellished with mother-of-pearl. +34.934.157.845, ruedigerbenedikt.com; available in the U.S. through bpdesigns.org



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DESIGN SEEN



CHICAGO Holly Hunt

An ancient war dance from the Maori people of New Zealand inspired the stance and the name of the Haka director chair (available to the trade; about \$7,500) from Holly Hunt. The Chicago-based company captured the essence of the haka in the chair's base—a striking, assured pose crafted from precision-milled solid aluminum. Havana leather completes the evocative interpretation. 800.320.3145, hollyhunt.com



CERMENATE, ITALY GALLOTTI & RADICE

Since 1955, this Italian company has used glass in elegant ways in its modern designs, and Venere, designed by Carlo Colombo, is no exception. Wrapped in painted glass, the wooden desk (or vanity, if one prefers) has a burnished metal frame and is available in a bright or satin finish. gallottiradice.it



KEY BISCAVNE, FLA.

James Duncan

Cobalt is not the color of conformity. A tenacious blue, it is a majestic retort to play-it-safe navy. Designer James Duncan saw a dress in this shade at the Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong, and now his aptly named Hong Kong table (available to the trade; from \$8,500) wears the same hue. The handcrafted piece mixes lacquered mahogany and Starphire glass. 305.731.2272, james-duncan.com

NOVEDRATE, ITALY

B&B ITALIA

The Italian company's Maxalto brand derives its name from the words *massa alto*, or “the highest” in the Venetian dialect. High design is always the focus at Maxalto, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Under Antonio Citterio's creative direction, the brand has produced stylish, industrial-sleek pieces such as this Alcor cabinet (shown). 800.872.1697, bebitalia.com



DALLAS

Grange Hall

In 2004, after having served as visual directors at Dallas's Stanley Korshak, Jeffrey Lee and Rajan Patel opened Grange Hall—a high-end shop for design cognoscenti seeking limited editions and other exceptional items for the home. Thanks to a recent collaboration with the architect Joshua Metzger, Grange Hall now has a chic restaurant (shown), which, like the boutique itself, is a visual feast for hungry aesthetes. 214.443.0600, ufgrangehall.com [A.N.]



TOP RIGHT: ORIOL TARRIDAS



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Atlanta, GA



{1}



{3}



{4}

Spring to Life

Evocative of the classic English garden room, these refined pieces put the season in proper perspective.



{2}



{5}

1) DEDON

A kicky two-seater from designer Daniel Pouzet's Swingrest series for Dedon, the SwingUs love seat (\$4,340) elevates outdoor lounging. The cozy, basketlike frame is hand-woven in the Philippines.

212.334.3345, dedon.us

2) STONE YARD

The planet Jupiter and its swirling bands of clouds inspired Mitch Brean's design of the Occhio base for this indoor/outdoor table (available to the trade) produced by Brean's San Diego company.

858.586.1580, stoneyardinc.com

3) JAMB

Lighting by this British company captures the English country house aesthetic. Influenced by antiques, the handcrafted Original Globe lantern (about \$6,350) has bronze moldings and a band of pierced gilt brass guilloche.

+44.20.7730.2122, jamb.co.uk

4) NOMI

Nomi Franklin's outdoor fabrics are awash in saturated colors and vibrant patterns. Her to-the-trade line includes (from top) Brocade Citron, Grecco Linea Oceanco, Brocade Melone, Venezia Citron, and Piazza Aqua.

831.728.4335, nomiinc.com



{8}



{6}



{7}

5} PENNOYER NEWMAN

Among the embellishments at this New York showroom is the Gardener's Frame (\$375). Cast from an antique and made of marble, rock, and resin, the piece can be used to ornament an ivy wall or frame a mirror. 212.839.0500, pennoyernewman.com

6} DE CASTELLI

When creating his Opera line for this Italian brand, the designer Alessandro Masturzo researched the gardening and horticulture traditions of the ancients. The tools (about \$1,700 per set) fuse simple lines with modern utility. +39.02.76006999, decastelli.it

7} TREILLAGE

Together with her Treillage co-owner John Rosselli, Bunny Williams curates the offerings at this New York shop. This Belgian decorative finial (\$1,600) is carved from reclaimed oak and is best suited for a covered spot. 212.535.2288, treillage.com

8} MARSTON & LANGINGER

Since the 1970s, the London firm has been building garden rooms for its international clientele. The commission shown displays the company's lantern ceiling style. +44.20.7881.5700, marston-and-langinger.com [ARIANNE NARDO]

(3) JOHN HAMMOND; (4) THOMAS BURKE; (5) YOCUM STUDIOS; (7) JULIAN CALVERLEY



{1}

A Cut Above

Geometry and texture take design to another dimension.



{2}

1} GABRIEL SCOTT The Harlow large chandelier (\$13,850 as shown), from Gabriel Kakon and Scott Richler of Gabriel Scott, radiates like electric bijoux. Fittingly, it was inspired by Richler's four years as a jewelry designer. Handmade in two sizes, with finishes of black steel, satin brass, or satin copper, the fixture showcases handblown glass in alabaster white (pictured, with brass finish) or smoked black. gabriel-scott.com; available to the trade through Lori Graham Design + Home, 202.745.0118, lorigraham.com



{3}

2} MUNNA This Portuguese company's Empire folding screen (priced from \$9,120) channels early-20th-century architecture's skyline swing. The piece, a decadent display of art deco styling designed by Sérgio Mendes, stands about 6.5 feet tall, pairs gold leaf and cotton velvet, and comes in several colors, including the steel blue hue shown here. munnadesign.com; available in the U.S. through Form, 702.804.1692, formvegas.com



{4}

3} JOHN LYLE Long celebrated for his fireplace screens and accessories, the New York-based designer John Lyle also applies his artistry to a collection of furniture, lighting, and outdoor creations. His Facet table (\$10,350)—available in 10 bronze finishes and measuring 18 inches high and 24 inches wide—alluringly captures and refracts light. 646.344.1964, johnlyledesign.com

4} DOMEAU & PÉRÈS New Yorkers seeking distinctive goods for the home often wander into SoHo's Atelier Courbet, where purveyor Melanie Courbet offers the contemporary creations of such artisanal companies as Domeau & Pérès. The French workshop's Jyn and Jon armchair and ottoman (\$7,500 as shown, in wool cloth; \$9,500 for leather), conjured up by the Argentine designer Pablo Reinoso, incorporate foam layers that together create a compelling form. domeauperes.com; available through Atelier Courbet, 212.226.7378, ateliercourbet.com [ARIANNE NARDO] **HAS**



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New York City

✳ **When creating** the lobby and the residential interiors at the Baccarat Hotel & Residences in Midtown Manhattan, the New York-based designer Tony Ingrao relied on a crystal-clear concept: “We used as many surfaces as possible that would play with light reflection—an homage,” he says, “to a crystal company that has been reflecting light for 250 years.” Naturally, each of the Baccarat tower’s 60 residences (about 70 percent had sold at press time) boasts a Baccarat chandelier in the foyer and handles inlaid with Baccarat crystal on the ziricote wood entry doors. It was a challenge, Ingrao says, “given the constraints of [the tower’s] central elevator core, to still create grand spaces in a contemporary structure.” Floor-to-ceiling windows help to enhance the sense of an expansive *maison* in the clouds, as do ceiling heights of 14 feet on some floors and 20 feet in the penthouse. In addition to spectacular views, owners enjoy 24-hour concierge service and priority reservations at the hotel’s restaurant, as well as access to its 10,000-square-foot La Mer spa and 55-foot-long crystalline swimming pool. [JORGE S. ARANGO]



FACTS & STATS

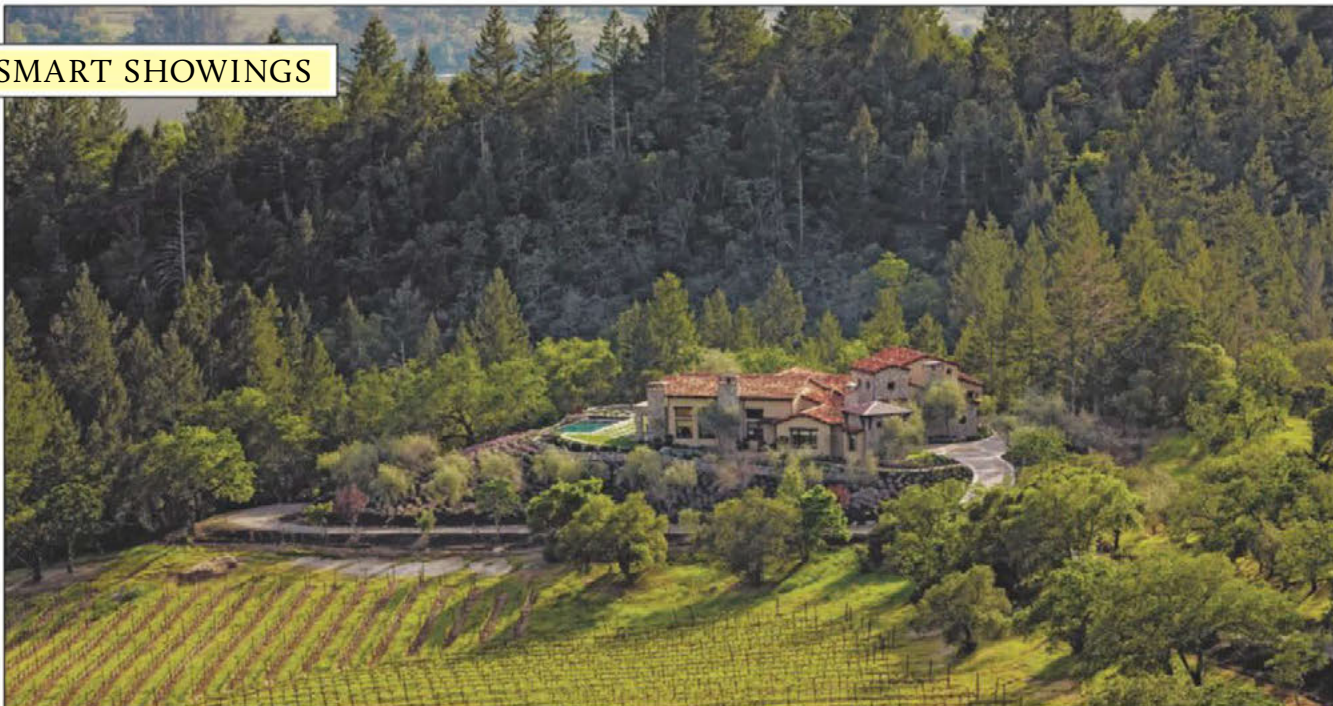
SETTING: On the top 32 floors of the 50-story Baccarat tower designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, on West 53rd Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues

HOMES: The 60 residences offer from one to four bedrooms and include four full-floor condos and a five-bedroom duplex penthouse with a terrace

PRICE: From \$5.15 million to \$60 million

INQUIRIES: Corcoran Sunshine Marketing Group, 212.765.5300, baccaratresidencesny.com

SMART SHOWINGS



* Kenwood, California

FACTS & STATS

SETTING: Four parcels (totaling about 159.5 acres) in Sonoma wine country's Mayacamas foothills

HOMES: The offering includes Casa La Vid (shown), a 5,800-square-foot home on 4 acres; Casa Sol, a 6,100-square-foot home on 103 acres; and two additional permitted homesites

of about 47 acres and 6 acres, respectively. The two homes, both with swimming pools, were completed last year

PRICE: \$22 million

INQUIRIES: Nicki Naylor, Alain Pinel Realtors, 707.953.9456, lavidsonoma.com



Santa Fe, New Mexico

FACTS & STATS

SETTING: On 16.6 acres in the Tesuque Ridge neighborhood

HOME: This property has all the earmarks of a gracious Southwestern estate, from formal living and dining rooms to a guesthouse. Reclaimed walnut, hickory, and mesquite woods, as well as 13 fireplaces, lend a sense of warmth to the six-bedroom home's more than 13,000 square feet of interior space

PRICE: \$13.65 million

INQUIRIES: Ray Rush, 505.577.5117, or Tim Van Camp, 505.690.2750, Rush/Van Camp Sotheby's International Realty, knowingsantafe.com



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SMART SHOWINGS



* Miami

FACTS & STATS

SETTING: The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Miami Beach, on 7 waterfront acres

HOMES: For his first full-scale architectural project in the United States, the Italian designer Piero Lissoni is setting a modernist tone. Boffi kitchens and baths, smart-house wiring, and other features will grace the property's residences (111 condominiums and 15 villas), which will

have two to five bedrooms and between 1,700 square feet and 11,000 square feet of living space. Amenities will include pools, private dockages, and a captained private day yacht. Completion is expected in winter 2016

PRICE: From \$2 million to \$40 million

INQUIRIES: The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Miami Beach, 305.953.9500, theresidencesmiamibeach.com



Bilgola Beach, Australia

FACTS & STATS

SETTING: Overlooking the Pacific Ocean, in a northern suburb of Sydney

HOME: A collaboration between the Australian architect Walter Barda and the landscape designer Jamie Durie, this four-bedroom contemporary home on three levels includes a gym, sauna, and yoga room

PRICE: \$4.65 million AUD (about \$3.8 million USD)

INQUIRIES: Ken Jacobs, Christie's International Real Estate, ken@kenjacobs.com.au, +61.2.8340.3406, kenjacobs.com.au

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* Barbados, West Indies

FACTS & STATS

SETTING: On about 1.2 acres at the beachside Sandy Lane resort in Saint James

HOME: A bridge over a koi pond leads to the entrance of this 7,800-square-foot Balinese-style house, named Alila, which has four bedrooms and a 56-foot-long swimming pool. The property comes with a cabana at the owners' private beach facility, as well as access to the tennis courts and courses at the Sandy Lane Golf Club

PRICE: \$7.95 million

INQUIRIES: Christian de Meillac, Knight Frank, +44.20.7861.1097, knightfrank.com



Los Angeles


FACTS & STATS

SETTING: In the hills of West Hollywood, with expansive city views

HOME: A high-tech executive designed this 4,538-square-foot, three-bedroom house for himself, incorporating smart-house technology throughout.

Automation extends to the home's LED lighting, entry gates and doors, window shades, video intercom and security cameras, whole-house sound, and two entertainment-ready rooms with 70-inch TVs and surround sound

PRICE: \$4.14 million

INQUIRIES: Yogen Dhanik, 323.505.9346, 2118beechknoll.com 



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Orlando Diaz-Azcuy



IN 1962, Orlando Diaz-Azcuy fled Cuba for the States. By 1976 he was the youngest vice president at the architectural giant Gensler, and in a short time he was its design principal. Emboldened by a furniture collection he had designed for Hickory Business Furniture (now HBF), he opened his own company in San Francisco in 1987. Interior design commissions flowed in. “I didn’t want them because I thought I’d be designing furniture,” he recalls. “But I’m not a person who says no.” Today, he and four associates, David Todd Oldroyd, Greg Stewart, Ian Bevilacqua, and Tamara Dinsmore, run an intentionally small firm known for exquisitely curated, minimalist luxury. “My philosophy is simplicity,” Diaz-Azcuy says. “I want everything to be understated.” The 76-year-old architect just completed the interior of a private jet, and he is working on two apartments in New York. Furniture projects, including a line of seating he recently created for Janus et Cie, also still dot his crowded to-do list. Despite his hectic schedule, he graciously said yes to *Robb Report Home & Style* when we asked him to discuss design and share his process. [JORGE S. ARANGO]



TOP: MELANIE ACEVEDO; NEAR/PAR RIGHT: MATTHEW MILLMAN; OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT: PETER TJANJADI

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: The living room in Diaz-Azcuy's New York City residence, where the appointments include custom seating wrapped in silver-glazed Donghia linen, a 1970s Gae Aulenti-designed Carrara marble coffee table, and 1920s paintings by Glyn Philpot; the living room of a Carmel Valley, Calif., home, with a Chinese coffee table, an Oushak carpet, and casual modern seating; the designer's intriguing juxtapositions in the entry of the same Carmel Valley home.



Who has influenced your work?

George Nelson and Ward Bennett. Gensler invited George to present design lectures to the staff. It was my job to travel with him to the various offices. He was very analytical, pragmatic, and functional. Ward was incredibly rigid, inflexible about anything that crossed the border into decoration. I like some decorative elements, but his discipline really impressed me.

What informs your furniture designs?

I'm inspired by simplicity and honesty. Chinese, Japanese, and African furniture, and to some extent Scandinavian, is utilitarian and simple.

How do you approach color?

I develop colors for each specific location and situation. Palettes are very studied. I like it when I ask you what color something is and you can't say for certain if it's green or blue.

You create environments where nothing is extraneous and somehow avoid their becoming stark.

My mind is a curating tool. I compose a room like a painting. I have to put the right piece in the right corner at the right angle. I have a responsibility to weed through everything to find what is appropriate, adaptable, and necessary for my clients to live better. I do not believe in extravagance and flamboyance.

Boutique Mystique

When Diaz-Azcuy realized in the 1990s that he was beginning to re-create his lightning-paced Gensler experience at his own firm, he pared down his staff from 35 people to about 12. Having a smaller company has enabled him to give projects more exclusive, personalized service. “It allows me to design, to push my pencil at my desk,” he says.

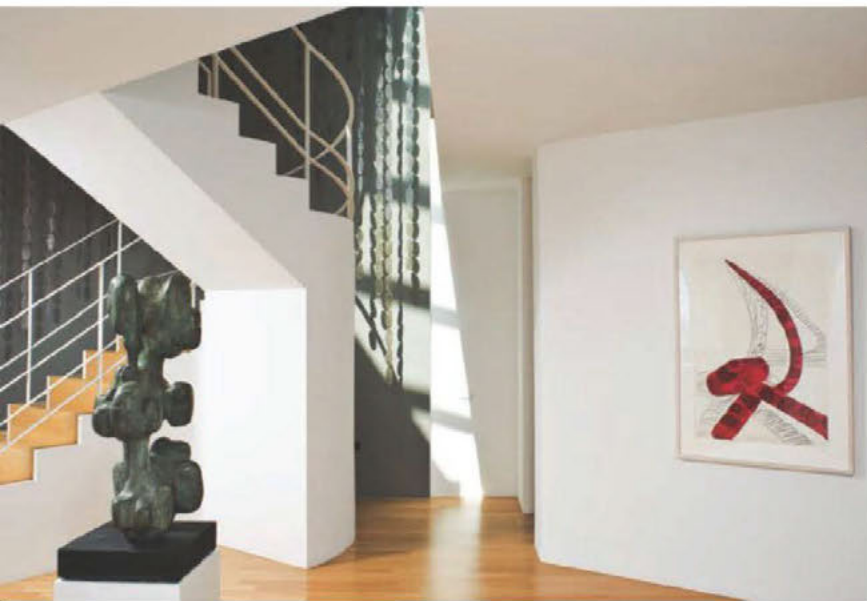
CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Diaz-Azcuy's Quadratl chaise for Janus et Cie's new Masters Aluminum series; a striking vignette—a François Stahly sculpture, a drawing by Andy Warhol, and a Vistosi glass curtain—that he composed for a private residence in New York; the designer's Aria chairs for McGuire, at a table in Ram's Gate Winery's barrel room, in Sonoma, Calif.; his Manon chandelier for Boyd; a Diaz-Azcuy-designed bar in a San Francisco tower being built by Heller Manus Architects; the designer's San Francisco dining room, with a Deborah Oropallo painting and slipcovered McGuire Miami chairs in Fortuny fabric; a beach house of his design that pairs a Damien Hirst butterfly painting with an Axel Salto vase, a modern chaise, and a petrified wood table.



“I’m very impatient. I can’t be doing the same thing over and over. A variety of work and a variety of clients excite me.”

—ORLANDO DIAZ-AZCUY

THIS PAGE, BOTTOM: DAVID DUNCAN LIVINGSTON. OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT: JOHN M. HALL; TOP RIGHT: ADRIAN GREGOURUTTI; MIDDLE LEFT: STEELBLUE; BOTTOM: NATHAN KIRKMAN



Present Perfect

"I am a modernist, not a traditionalist or avant-gardist," says Diaz-Azcuy. "I'm practicing in 2015 and designing for people who are living *now*. My interiors need to satisfy the client at the time they are using them."

THIS PAGE: Orlando Diaz-Azcuy Design Associates' San Francisco headquarters (a "laboratory" for design, says Diaz-Azcuy) exemplifies the firm's contemporary philosophy. In addition to reference books, the library (near right) displays architectural models and Verner Panton chairs. The focal point in the reception area (far right) is the hide rug, which shares space with the designer's white-lacquered Kenya table for HBF. A presentation room (below) showcases custom tufted chairs in mohair, a Chinese altar table, and a painting of two Korean sisters by the San Francisco painter Lordan Bunch.



DAVID DUNCAN LIVINGSTON

A portrait of Roger Federer in a black tuxedo with a white shirt and a black bow tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is dark with some stage lights visible.

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please – freshly ground,
not capsuled.'*



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Orlando Diaz-Azcuy's Top 10

❖ **PLACE TO UNWIND:** My new country house in Lucas Valley, [in] San Rafael [California]. It's an Eichler house I've been restoring for two years. I want it to look like what an Eichler house would look like today.

❖ **RESTAURANT:** A16 in San Francisco. Very simple Italian food and no fusion! I do not like fusion; it's fake cuisine. ❖ **ARCHITECTURE:** I was just in Lisbon and fell in love with the train station by Santiago Calatrava. I also love the Lisbon Pavilion by Álvaro Siza. ❖ **ART:** Maillol, Paul Klee, Egon Schiele.

❖ **ERA FOR DESIGN:** Right now! Modernism has evolved to a point where we have a freedom we have never had before. ❖ **SOUVENIR:** Always chocolates, wherever I go. I also buy pieces of textiles. ❖ **POSSESSION:** The Christian Bérard paintings my partner, John Capo, and I have collected.

❖ **FRAGRANCE:** Eau de Cologne Impériale by Guerlain. I always pick up a bottle when I'm at Charvet. ❖ **VACATION SPOT:** San Miguel de Allende [Mexico]. I've never seen a little place with so much self-identity. The Rosewood hotel there is the top of the top. ❖ **CLOTHES:** Dior Homme for special occasions, but Cos for everyday clothes. It's a Swedish company, and their clothes are very simple, with perfect silhouettes. *Orlando Diaz-Azcuy Design Associates (ODADA), 415.362.4500, odada.net [J.S.A.]* **ILIAS**



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Lisbon, Portugal's Oriente Station, designed by Santiago Calatrava; the hills of Marin County, Calif., near Lucas Valley; Egon Schiele's *Portrait of Ida Roessler*; summer 2015 fashions from Dior Homme; artisan chocolates; *Portrait of René Crevel* by Christian Bérard; San Miguel de Allende's Rosewood hotel; Eau de Cologne Impériale by Guerlain.

ORIENTE STATION: DENNIS WOOD/THINKSTOCK; ROSEWOOD: DON RIDDLE IMAGES; PORTRAIT OF RENÉ CREVEL: HIP/ART RESOURCE/ARS/ADAP; DIOR: PATRICK STABLE; CHOCOLATES: KASIM/THINKSTOCK; MARIN COUNTY HILLS: MARBENZ/SHUTTERSTOCK; PORTRAIT OF IDA ROESSLER: ERICH LESSING/ART RESOURCE, NY

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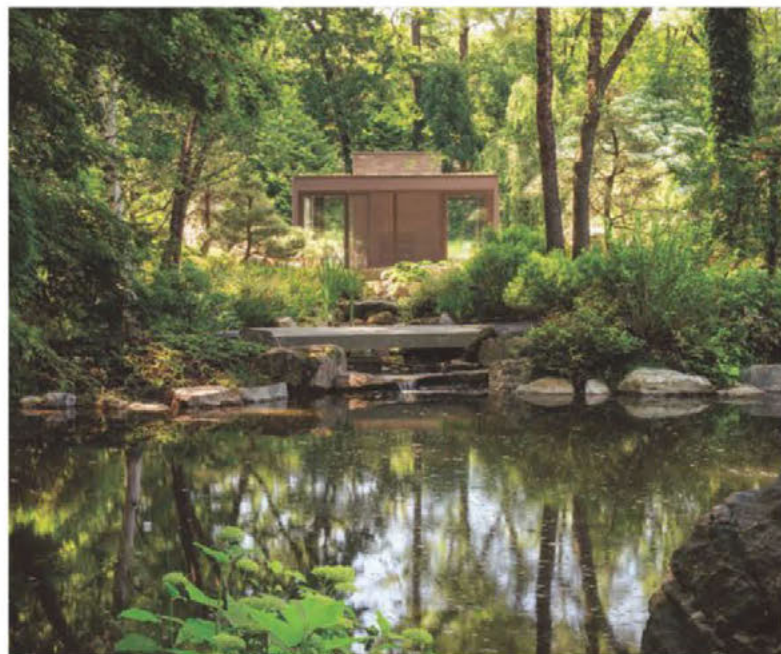
An architect's focus on light transforms a property into a shining example for indoor/outdoor living.

BY SHEILA GIBSON STOODLEY > PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL WARCHOL



BRIAN HEMINGWAY is sensitive to light in the best way possible. The Vancouver, British Columbia-based architect wanted this 22,000-square-foot home near Boston to glow like a lantern at night, and he attained that goal on behalf of the homeowners, without a doubt. The husband and wife, who had seen Hemingway's work in a *Robb Report* publication in 2006, had asked him to renovate a recently purchased home. He achieved that end, too, but it took five years and required removing nearly all of the original 15,000-square-foot residence, which dated to 1987. "I virtually ripped the whole thing apart on paper, presented the scheme, and they fell in love with it," he says.





Light Moves

Hemingway's attention to light—how it passes through a space, and how it changes over the course of a day and from season to season—moved him to blur the home's boundaries between indoors and out. Using what he calls flying beams (left) served both purposes, enhancing the play of light and extending the home into the land outside. The owners embraced the nature of the property, literally and figuratively. A substantial native boulder (below) was moved slightly to suit Hemingway's design; the terrace was built around it. The bonsai displayed on the bench are part of the husband's collection of the potted trees. When the weather turns harsh, as it inevitably does in New England, he moves the plants to the elegant greenhouse (above) that sits near the pond.



The upper reaches of the atrium and the living room feature more of the architect's flying beams, as well as a grid-like signature feature that he calls a trellis.





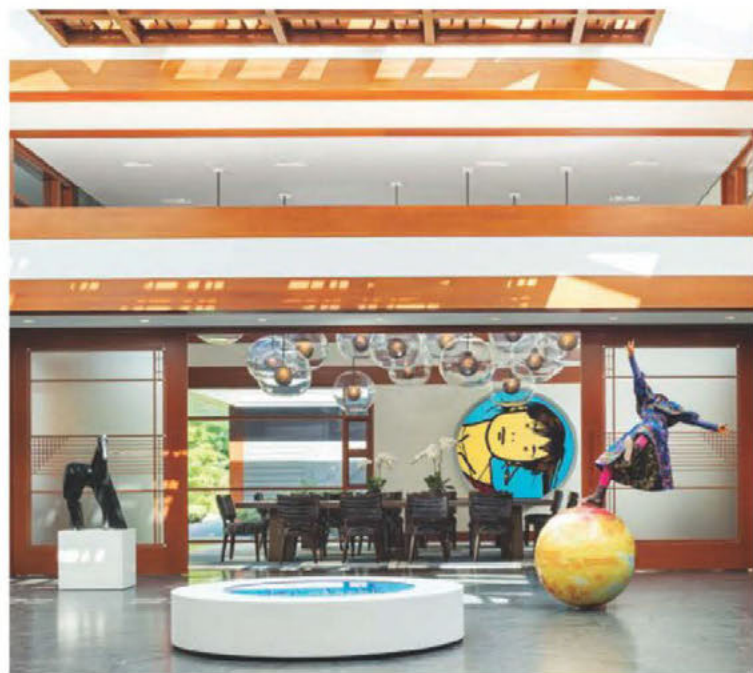
Expertly Framed

The atrium (left) provides a grand gathering area for parties and a light-filled gallery for the owners' art collection. The wood and stone that Hemingway favored for the rest of the home informed the space's color palette—an easy choice, perhaps, but settling on a shade of stain for the Douglas fir took months. “[The owners] felt they wanted a more rich tone, but they didn’t want to hide the grain or the beauty of the wood,” recalls Colin Flavin, a Boston-based architect who worked with Hemingway on the project. The solution came from an unlikely source: The husband smokes cigars, and the burnt umber hue of a Davidoff cigar wrapper that he retrieved from his jacket pocket put the design team on the path to success. Virginia Mist granite delivers the gray tones and is used indoors and out, heightening the boundary-blurring effect. The upper reaches of the atrium and the living room (above) feature more of Hemingway’s flying beams, as well as a grid-like signature feature that he calls a trellis. Normally he places such trellises outside to extend the living space of a home, but here, he says, it serves “more as a visual modifier of space.”



■ ■ ■ All Aglow

Bringing natural light inside the home was a priority, but artificial illumination was not neglected. The fixture composed of milk glass and brass nickel that hangs over the granite countertop in the kitchen (above) is bespoke, as is the showstopping suite of pendant lights in the main dining room (right) beyond the atrium (below, foreground). The lights in the dining room, created by Cambridge, Mass., glass artist Carrie Gustafson, represent six months to a year of work. “Every aspect of that is custom-made,” says Flavin, who recalls working up a full-scale model of the lights in the designated dining space by hanging beach balls on fishing line from its ceiling. “Tremendous care was given to so many aspects of craftsmanship in the house,” he says, noting that the outer globes had to be treated with a special plastic finish that resists breakage. The twin dining tables allow the owners to seat as many as 40 dinner guests comfortably.





■ ■ ■ Natural Beauty

Though the owners are ardent art collectors, they did not build their home to showcase specific works; the real artists here are the architects, Hemingway and Flavin. So deft were they at inviting nature into their creation that, from certain angles, it can be hard to tell where the outdoors stops and starts. The image shown below was taken from an exterior sitting area (foreground), which looks back into the home. The extensive use of glass here permits a view that reveals several adjoining spaces. The living room (right), enlivened by flying beams that admit light, features a limited-edition Iris table from Barber & Osgerby (see “Bright Ideas,” page 124) and a curvy, richly gray Vladimir Kagan sofa. One decorative detail, however, is conspicuously absent. “There are deliberately no window treatments, so that Mother Nature weaves the most beautiful textural backgrounds,” says interior designer Andrew Sheinman, of New York’s Pembroke & Ives. He oversaw the interiors, working alongside his colleague Michael Lewis. “The seasons change the look and aspect of the house,” says Sheinman, “and we wanted to play on this.”



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■ ■ ■ Out of Neutral

Only in the master suite does a non-neutral color—indigo—play a significant role. “We wanted [it] to stand apart from the rest of the house, as this is a more private and intimate area,” says Sheinman. He notes that he and his colleagues thought the deep hue “would be a great foil for the Douglas fir and granite.” The bedroom (above) features table lamps by Hervé Van der Straeten, a pair of armchairs by the Danish-born American designer Jens Risom, and a custom bed by Pembroke & Ives. The sofa and chairs in the sitting room (below) are by Roman Thomas and surround an Yves Klein-inspired glass cube table by Fredrikson Stallard. The carpets in both spaces are by Tai Ping, and both spaces afford spectacular views of the wooded 13-acre property.





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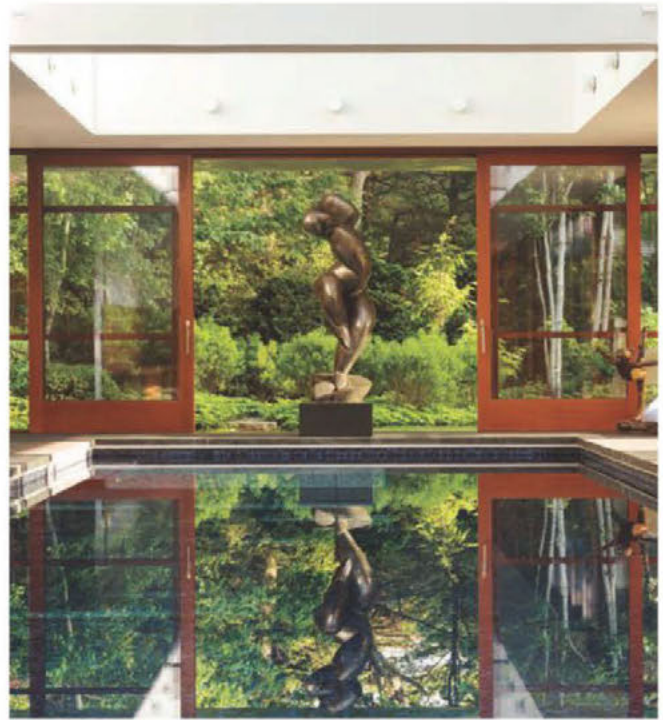
■ ■ ■ Deep Reflections

The property's indoor pool area is a tranquil place that embraces all the light New England lavishes upon it. While neither the landscaping nor the abstract figurative bronze (right) is intended as the main focus, both are artfully composed and soothing to gaze upon. The pool, which is 60 feet long, sits alongside another Hemingway signature: a crenellation. It is the zigzag expanse of glass (below at right) that interrupts the stained Douglas fir framing. "I use it like a prism, and I use it with water, usually a pond or a reflecting pool," says Hemingway. "You get a sense of light being reflected and refracted."

This residence is one of the few East Coast projects that Hemingway has agreed to do (he has completed many in Canada and has also worked in California, New Zealand, and Malaysia), and in reflecting on the property, he credits the owners' enthusiasm with having convinced him to carry forth. "It was a huge leap of faith and expense to design the house I made for them," he says. The result: a light-filled home that is far from light-minded. ■ ■ ■

Brian Hemingway Design, 604.250.1206, brianhemingway.com;

Flavin Architects, 617.227.6717, flavinarchitects.com; Pembroke & Ives, 212.995.0555, pembrokeandives.com



Bobbie K. Carlyle

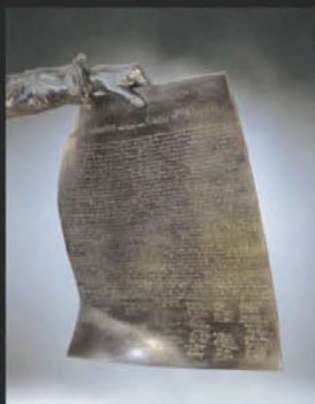
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carving his future.

Self Made Man

Small to Monumental Bronze

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Southern Exposure

An all-weather compound in South Florida sits confidently above sea level but retains an atmosphere grounded in comfortable elegance.

BY ALEXANDRIA ABRAMIAN > PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESSICA KLEWICKI GLYNN





COME TROPICAL STORM or blazing sun, this 7,575-square-foot residence in Naples, Fla., is designed to endure all manner of weather conditions, from serene to extreme. “Everything here, from the doors to the furniture, from the art to the fabrics, was chosen to withstand outdoor conditions,” says architect Clemens Bruns Schaub, who designed the home not only to be a true indoor/outdoor experience for its husband-and-wife owners, but also to comply with the region’s flood-zone requirements. “All living spaces have to be 7 feet above grade,” he says, “but we wanted it to feel as though you’re living on ground level.” Hence, Schaub and his namesake Vero Beach, Fla., firm raised the swimming pool (left), which is located off the living room on the home’s west side, to make the spaces function as a single level. “We even planted trees high off the ground on either side of the pool; it feels like you’re on the ground.

“This is a large property,” adds the architect, “but when you come in through the main entrance [above], you don’t see everything. I like homes to reveal themselves gradually.” »



Even Flow

Bracketed by swimming pools on the property's east and west sides, the living room (above) serves as the main gathering place in the home. "We wanted this area to feel more inviting and less formal," says interior designer Christine Pokorney, a member of the Associates Studio, a sister design group to Schaub's firm. "We really wanted the entire home to walk that fine line between formal and informal," she says. The living room porch (upper right), outfitted with McGuire outdoor sofas upholstered in Janus et Cie fabrics, is a seamless extension of the comfortable interior. Inside, a Michael S. Smith mahogany sofa obtained through the John Rosselli showroom doubles as theater and dining seating, while a trio of Schaub-designed glass-topped tables is also multi-functional, serving as a dining table when joined or as occasional tables when placed separately. With the push of a button, the owners can reposition Olga de Amaral's *Dos Mitades*, the artwork above the fireplace, to reveal a TV screen. Pokorney selected a chandelier from Ochre, in part, "because it looked a bit like rain." In the adjacent kitchen (right), which can be closed off from the living room by a series of pocketed shoji screens, elements such as a marble backsplash and quartz countertops perpetuate the home's neutral palette.



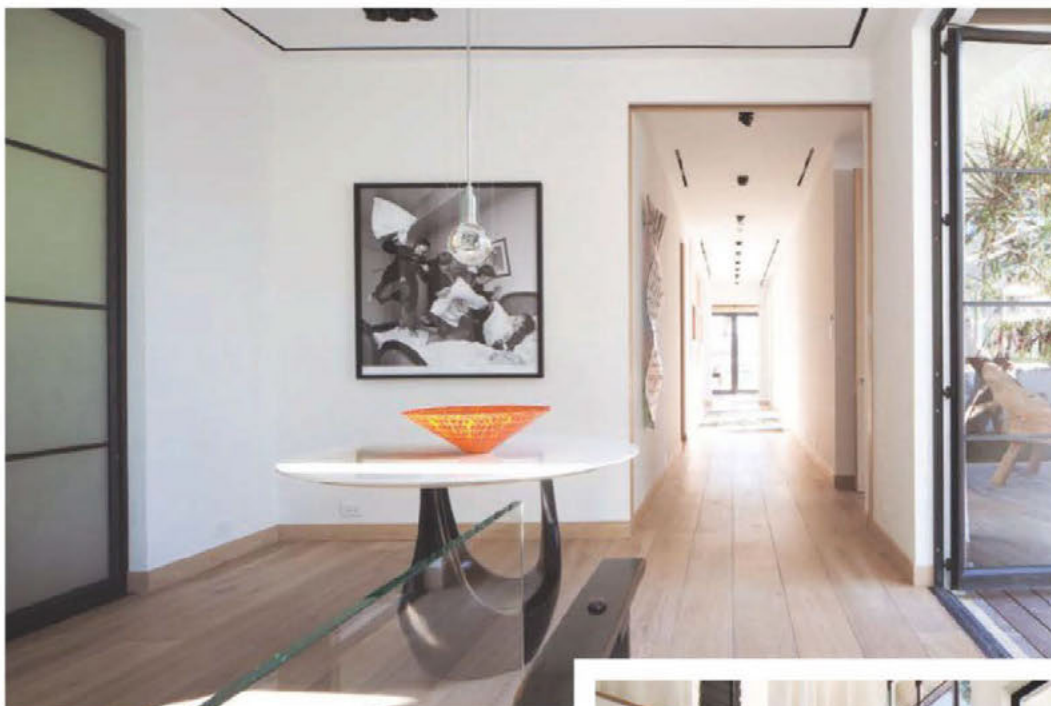


“We really wanted the entire home to walk that fine line between formal and informal.”

—Interior Designer
Christine Pokorney



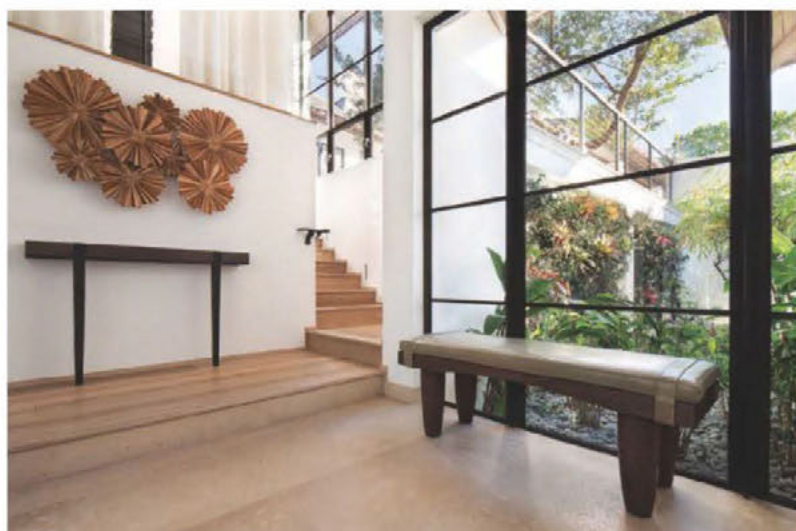




Air Apparent

Complementing the property's subtle color scheme are Caribbean influences (generous overhangs) and nods to Asian design (simple materials), says Schaub. He used oak, limestone, plaster, and bronze to create an aura of understated balance within the natural setting, and he made certain the residence would welcome only the right kind of air. "The site is along the Gulf Coast, facing east toward the water. The rectangular pool faces west and the circular pool faces east toward a cove, so it was carefully planned for lots of cross ventilation, and to invite in summer breezes while blocking winter winds," says the architect. He took full advantage of the proximity to that protected cove when he created the living pavilion (bottom left and bottom right), which is one of the home's most compelling spaces. The room has louvered windows on three sides. Located just outside the pavilion is an intimate outdoor gathering area (top left) outfitted with teak club chairs and a table from David Sutherland.

Elegant furnishings adorn even the less-trafficked areas of the home, thanks to the detail-minded Pokorney. The interior designer placed a Berman Rosetti bench in the private entrance (middle right) that connects the garage to the main living level, and in the home's only indoor hallway (top right), which leads from the living room to the master suite, she set down a bronze-base table, from the San Francisco designer Jiun Ho, on the European oak floor. A black-and-white Harry Benson photograph, purchased by the homeowners through the Northeast's Cavalier Galleries, completes the scene.





Elements of Style

Next to the master suite, the wife's office (below) features quietly glamorous details not found in other parts of the home. Pokorney anchored the space with one of Fiona Curran's geometric carpets for the Rug Company (Zap is its name) and positioned a pair of bronzed glass tables from Donghia in front of a curving Vladimir Kagan sofa. A Joseph Jeup-designed, leather-wrapped desk acquired through Holly Hunt finishes the look. Overhead, the millwork is an elegant touch, while in the home's living room a similarly chic ceiling design allows for better sound absorption during movie viewings.

A covered terrace (left) connects the wife's office to the west pool courtyard. European oak flooring, bronze window frames, and soft, almost white walls appear both inside and out, exemplifying the manner in which materials and colors link the property's interior and exterior spaces. A gnarled teak root bench, purchased from Authentic Provence in nearby West Palm Beach, adds a touch of organic whimsy.



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Lookout Points

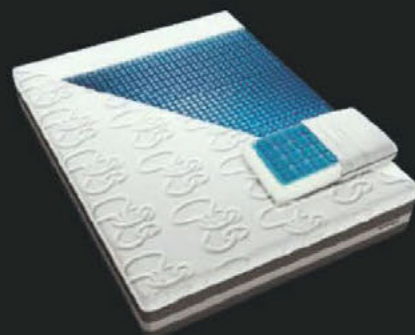
Schaub set the master wing, with his office, on the northernmost side of the property, which affords both dramatic cove views and privacy. In the airy master bedroom (top), a Berman Rosetti bed with a fabric headboard and suede footboard seems to float, while a vintage rattan chaise, selected for what Pokorney calls its “old Florida vibe,” graces the porch. That same outdoor perch is shared by the husband’s office (above), where two Holly Hunt club chairs flank a coffee table that Schaub made from a tree found on another project. With cove views on two sides, the office was deliberately sited so that the husband could easily check fishing conditions. Floor-to-ceiling, bronze-framed windows in the master bathroom (left) face a wall of bamboo for a sense of tropical privacy. A volcanic-limestone-and-resin Victoria and Albert tub rests in the middle of the room, under a waxed paper ceiling light designed by Davide Groppi. “I was shopping with the homeowner, and when she saw that fixture she was immediately drawn to it,” says Pokorney. “It reminded her of the moon.”

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Suite Surrender

At the southern end of the 1.3-acre property, which features abundant cove-facing garden areas (above) by landscape designer Neil Sickterman of the Associates Studio, guest suites (middle) connect via an outdoor hallway—a classic element of tropical design, says Schaub. “Having to get to different rooms through outdoor hallways is something that is very much a part of that tradition,” he says. In this home’s layout, each of the four guest suites has its own outdoor sitting area (bottom). Keeping each area’s Sunbrella curtains closed affords privacy, while opening them links the suites and allows for uninterrupted passage between them.

“The home can accommodate lots of people,” says the wife. “When we have all of our children and grandchildren here, everyone can find their own place. Then at other times, we can all gather together without it ever feeling crowded. Most of all, we didn’t want a huge, concrete house. This home manages to feel very spacious while keeping a warm and inviting feeling.”





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High-Water Mark

The home's inviting aura—elegant yet comfortable—is epitomized in the cove-facing terrace (above). Limestone flooring extends from the living room, and a raised Jacuzzi has an outer rim that doubles as a seating area. Contrasting the west pool's rectangular shape, the east pool (above, at left) is “slightly twisted, to aim its views directly towards the curve [of the cove],” says Schaub. Water cascades over the pool's infinity edge to the garden below (left), effectively integrating the two levels of the home. The custom pool tiles, designed by the architect and produced by Vidrepur, evoke the ocean's blues, while the garden's limestone sitting area and circular fire feature echo the pool's curves. “On the west side of the property, we wanted it to feel more formal, which is why we have the rectangular pool,” says the architect. “On the east, we wanted it to feel more casual and for the pool to mimic the curve of the cove.”

“I like a home,” Schaub continues, “that can be two things at the same time—both formal and informal. It's just like changing your clothes. Living in a house that can be both formal and informal, where you can go inside and out, should be that easy.” 

Clemens Bruns Schaub Architect & Associates, 772.231.1484, cbsarchs.com; The Associates Studio, 772.231.1785, theassociatesstudio.com



Fulco in New York, 1939

*"Without question he was a revolutionary,
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— Babs Simpson
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An aerial photograph of a white Baglietto-built superyacht sailing on the ocean. The yacht is viewed from a high angle, showing its sleek, modern design with multiple decks and large windows. The water is a deep blue-green with whitecaps. The yacht is moving from the top left towards the bottom right of the frame.

Water Music

**A SONG PROVIDES THE SPARK FOR A BAGLIETTO-BUILT
SUPERYACHT'S CRISP AND POLISHED INTERIOR DESIGN SCHEME.**

BY MAIRI BEAUTYMAN



FACTS & STATS

YACHT: *Why Worry*

BUILDER AND INTERIOR ARCHITECT: Baglietto

EXTERIOR ARCHITECT: Francesco Paszkowski Design

INTERIOR DESIGN: Sá Aranha & Vasconcelos (SA&V)

LENGTH: 141 feet (43 meters)

CABINS: 6

GUESTS: 15

CREW: 7

PRICE: about \$20 million

CONTACT: SA&V, +351.218.453.070







MARC PARIS/PHOTO FOR PRESS

❖ Harmonious Arrangements

Francesco Paszkowski, the Italian yacht designer behind the steel hull and aluminum superstructure of the 141-foot Baglietto 43 displacement motor yacht, has been known to rhapsodize about the latter metal. “Aluminum has a soul,” says Paszkowski. “Working and designing with it is like using a needle and thread to seam together small pieces by welding and folding them like origami.”

The Portuguese studio Sá Aranha & Vasconcelos (SA&V) took similar care when it tackled the interior design of *Why Worry*, the Baglietto 43 shown on these pages. (The privately owned yacht was for sale at press time for about \$20 million.) In conceiving the overall look and feel for the boat’s crisp and polished spaces, SA&V had help from a song, according to the firm’s chief designer and co-CEO, Rosário Tello, who helms the company with co-founder Carmo Aranha.

“[The clients] asked for ‘very sophisticated’—starting with the idea that they’d like to have dark wood, not light wood,” explains Tello. “So we thought of ‘Ebony and Ivory,’” she says, referring to the song performed by Stevie Wonder and Paul McCartney. High-gloss ebony wood and soft ivory leather abound inside.

Outside, hardy teak floors and weather-resistant acrylic-upholstered furniture grace the upper decks, including the flybridge (far left), where dining takes place at a custom glass-and-stainless-steel table. A space next to the wheelhouse (below) is ideal for sunbathing, and the upper deck (above) features a more formal dining area with a custom table, Royal Botania chairs, and illuminated alabaster side tables from Atelier Alain Ellouz. The pillows provide splashes of color.





❖ Hitting the Right Notes

Indoors, the designers relied on whites, deep browns, and metal accents to realize the desired light-and-dark palette. In the main deck saloon (above), a silk-cotton carpet from Limited Editions contrasts with the rich wenge floor, two Gica armchairs by Eduardo Climent rock on sleek ribbons of stainless steel, and custom sofas are swathed in ivory leather, cotton, and chenille

with horsehair piping. A polished oak table from Julian Chichester in the dining area (opposite page, lower right) is surrounded by Ligne Roset chairs with white leather seats. Softly illuminating the space are custom pendant lights incorporating stainless steel and ivory silk.

Not that the interior is entirely monochromatic. The large windows bring the blues of sea and sky indoors,



MARC PARIS/PHOTO FOR PRESS



and the designers infused the space with another color by mounting pieces of coral (legally purchased, according to the design firm) on stainless steel pedestals. “You can see the coral in different places, in red—big ones [that are] quite unusual and very special pieces,” says Tello. Custom bar glasses, towels, throws, and a scattering of pillows are also coral red.

In the bar and cinema area (top), an ebony media cabinet holds a large TV. Seating includes a white leather Kalup occasional chair from Moura Starr and stools that pull up to the 6-foot-long ebony bar. Mirrored panels cling to the bar and ceiling—a technique used throughout the yacht, Tello says, “so you can have the idea that the space is double-height.”

❖ Dream Weaver

The designers' ebony-and-ivory idea extends to the yacht's private spaces, as evidenced by the en suite bathroom (right) of the 260-square-foot master bedroom on the main deck. The light-and-dark color scheme is enlivened here, as elsewhere on the yacht, by shimmer and shine. Mosaic ceramic tile in the teak-floored shower features a softly glimmering finish, and the alabaster vanity, which holds glass basins from Arclinea, has an integrated LED that provides "a welcoming light presence," says Tello. The guest rooms on the lower deck (one is shown below) are elegantly minimal, featuring Tacchini chairs with reflective stainless-steel frames and crisp white linens with red accents. Silk-cotton rugs stretch over nearly the entire floor, and sound-absorbing ivory leather clads not only the custom beds but also the walls. Creating the visual effect of ribbed leather on the walls' lower half—a process that required hand-stitching leather over small ribs of wood—was a challenge. "It was almost impossible for the builders to do," says Tello. "They sent samples, we sent samples and went to Italy several times, but in the end the result was more than perfect."

Why Worry, indeed. **CLASS**

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Istanbul

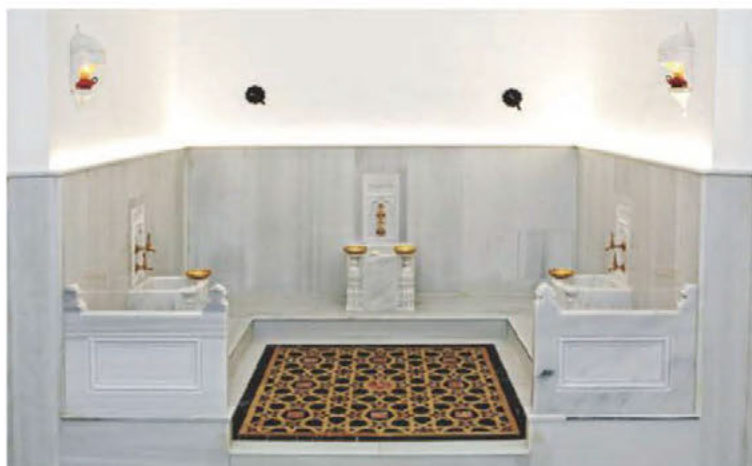
The city that bridges continents is a mosaic of cultural influences and cultured design.

❖ “All roads lead to Rome” is the well-known phrase, but the ancient truth was that all roads led to Istanbul, the erstwhile Byzantium, renamed Constantinople. The city’s location is part of what makes it so fascinating: With its site on the Bosphorus, the strait between the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara, Istanbul bridges Europe and Asia and is a crossroads for cultures and languages. A case in point is the Hagia Sophia (shown above), which was built as a Greek Orthodox basilica in 537, was converted to a mosque in 1453, and then in 1935 became a museum—one of the most-visited museums in the world. When Mustafa Kemal Atatürk’s secular, modern policies brought the country into the community of nations after World War I ended the Ottoman Empire, Istanbul continued as a capital of culture and tolerance, a dazzling array of the Byzantine contrasting with the modern that makes the city ever more cosmopolitan. [KAREN CAKEBREAD]



Asitane

At this local favorite restaurant in the Edirnekapi neighborhood, a “food archaeologist” guides the kitchen staff to produce historically accurate—and utterly delicious—versions of traditional Ottoman dishes, which are rich in tastes, often slow-cooked for depth of flavor, and imaginative in their ingredient combinations, just as when they were devised and prepared for the sultans. Among Asitane’s specialties are almond soup with pomegranate seeds, roasted sea bass with saffron and rosewater dressing, and lamb stew with apricots and raisins. +90.212.635.7997, asitanerestaurant.com



AYASOFYA HÜRREM SULTAN HAMAMI

A not-to-be-missed Turkish delight is spending a few hours at a hammam. Among Istanbul's most luxurious are these baths near the Hagia Sophia and the Blue Mosque, which were built in 1556, closed in 1910, and reopened in 2011 after a three-year restoration that brought in about 14,000 square feet of Marmara marble. Expect gold-plated bath bowls, *pestemals* (bath towels) of a silk/cotton blend, and a succession of rooms: cold, warm, and hot (shown). +90.212.517.35.35, ayasofyahamami.com

AUTOBAN

This firm, founded in 2003, has a reach that extends far beyond Istanbul. From furniture and lighting to hotels and residences, Autoban's imprint is modern and sophisticated. For Gaspar (shown), which opened two years ago in the Karaköy district, the design team turned a century-old printing house into a nightclub and eatery made unexpectedly chic by the humble wood panels that adorn the ceilings and walls. +90.212.243.8641, +90.212.236.9246 (gallery), autoban212.com



Istanbul Modern

Turkey's first private modern art museum opened in 2004, and it kick-started a renewal of the now-hip Karaköy district and initiated a national conversation about contemporary Turkish art and Istanbul's continuing vibrancy in the modern age. Its permanent collection includes wide-ranging works by Turkish artists and photographers such as Taner Ceylan, Bedri Baykam, and Sabri Berkel. Also on view, from the terrace of the café, are the Bosphorus and the old city beyond. +90.212.334.7300, istanbulmodern.org

RAFFLES ISTANBUL

The new Raffles Istanbul opened in September at the Zorlu Center, a four-tower hilltop complex of retail, office, residential, and performing-arts spaces. The hotel's sleek and lavish interior areas are decorated with silks and an impressive collection of Turkish and international works of art, beginning with the lobby's massive bronze *Lavinia*, a tribute to an Özdemir Asaf poem. The 32,000-square-foot spa features three hammams and a sunlit indoor pool, but for a different indulgence, 29 types of Champagne and the brand's signature Singapore Sling are available at the lively Long Bar or the clubby Writers Bar. 800.723.3537, raffles.com



Dhoku

Memet Güreli apprenticed with a rug merchant in one of the 4,000 shops that make up the Grand Bazaar and then founded his own rug business in 1989. But at the cutting edge of the patchwork trend, he rebranded and launched Dhoku, which offers seven lines that include new handwoven contemporary patterns. He also sources antique carpets and recycles them by piecing together richly colored or faded weaves into updated floor coverings. +90.212.527.6841, dhoku.com

ÇIRAĞAN PALACE KEMPINSKI

This Ottoman palace turned five-star hotel dominates a stretch of waterfront on the European side of the Bosphorus, and was one of the locales for the 2012 James Bond film *Skyfall*. Here, opulence reigns in the large public spaces and the 313 accommodations, exemplified by the 4,047-square-foot Sultan Suite, one of the largest (and priciest) in Europe. Turkish bath rituals and ayurvedic treatments are available in the spa, while six dining and bar venues include Tuğra, for authentic Ottoman dishes like spring lamb slow-cooked in a clay pot. +90.212.326.4646, kempinski.com



SEVAN BIÇAKÇI: KEMAL OLCA



Sevan Biçakçı

In an atelier near the Grand Bazaar, Biçakçı and his team create jewelry that is more like architecture, inspired by a mythical vision of Istanbul's past and present. He carves cityscapes of minarets, or other scenes and figures, into the undersides of colored gems and employs enamel, pavé diamonds, and miniature tesserae mosaics—sometimes all in one piece. His elaborate Byzantine- and Ottoman-style designs may not be for everyone, but they are unmistakably Turkish, which is his intent. His work is sold at Biçakçı stores in Istanbul and Dubai, as well as at Barneys New York. +90.212.520.4516, sevanbicakci.com

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Destination: Bodrum

❖ If the country's southwest coast is the Turkish Riviera, Bodrum is the area's Saint-Tropez. The historic town is just an 80-minute flight from Istanbul, making it a sought-after locale for the city's second-home seekers. The achingly picturesque jewel on the Aegean Sea—a landscape in sapphire and white—contains a host of historical sites including the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus (one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World) and the medieval Bodrum Castle, with its Museum of Underwater Archaeology. An important port since ancient times, Bodrum now thrives as a stylish yachting destination.

1) CASA DELL'ARTE A family of Turkish entrepreneurs and art collectors converted their vacation house into this art-themed boutique hotel in 2007. The family's collection includes more than 200 paintings from Turkish artists, placed throughout the residence's 12 suites, and art in the common areas revolves yearly. Sited on a tranquil piece of coastline, the Casa provides a private pool, beach, and jetty, as well as two *gulet* sailing yachts. Guests can also opt to stay in an adjacent private villa or at the Casa dell'Arte family resort next door, if children are in tow. +90.252.367.1848, casadellartebodrum.com

2) BOATBUILDERS Bodrum has supported a yacht-building industry since ancient times, when large-hulled wooden sailing ships transported goods and warriors between Mediterranean harbors. A Bodrum signature craft today is the *gulet* (Casa dell'Arte's is shown, above right), a wooden schooner that features wide-open decks and often sumptuous cabins. Some of the larger enterprises are Ağanlar, Aegean Yacht, and Cobra Yacht, but for many of the profession's local practitioners, their "boat-yard" is just that: a boat built in the yard. aganlar.com, aegeanyacht.com, cobrayacht.com

3) MANDARIN ORIENTAL, BODRUM Two presidential villas, 107 rooms, suites, and serviced apartments, and 198 residences ascend up 148 acres of Aegean-facing hillside. Minimalist yet commanding, the resort took four years to complete and opened in July 2014. The architect, Italy's Antonio Citterio, took a hands-on approach, and worked with London's Scape Design Associates to precisely place the site's olive and pine trees. +90.252.311.1888, mandarinoriental.com

4) YARBASAN EVLERI

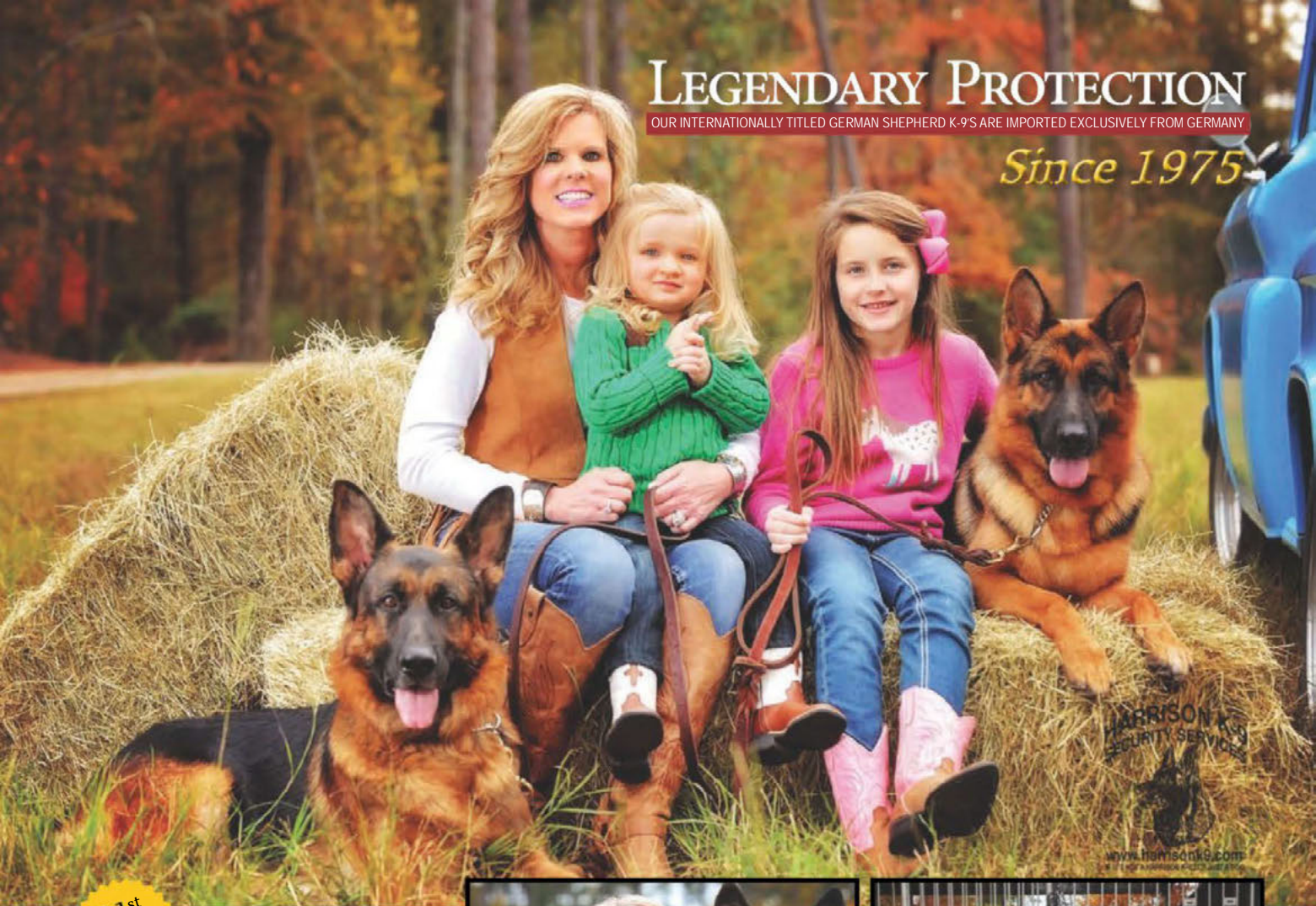
"This style is 500 years old and reflects 5,000 years of culture," says Tahir Toker, one of the architects of this commune of 27 houses, a workshop, and a café. The style he refers to is quintessential Bodrum: traditional designs and building methods used for the homes clustered on narrow stone streets and shaded by high stone walls; materials like andesite rock, wood for the colorful carved doors, and tiles for the roofs and mosaics decorating exteriors; cisterns to store well water; and masses of flowers with oak trees interspersed. A number of homes remain for sale. +90.532.324.5746, yarbasan-evleri.com [K.C.] **HHS**



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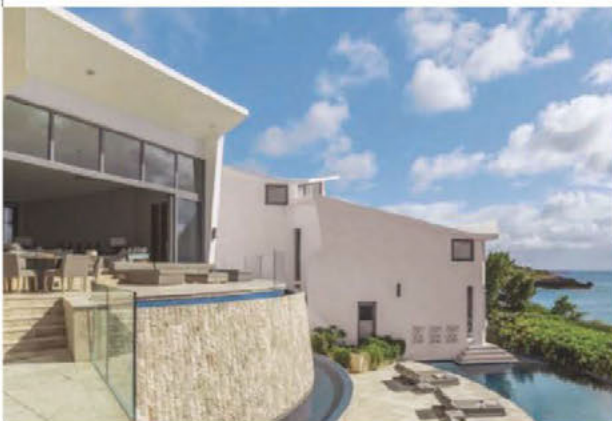
Private villa rentals and yacht charters with a sense of home & style

BLACKGARDEN BAY, ANGUILLA

VILLA KISHTI overlooks Blackgarden Bay, a secluded beach cove rimmed with volcanic rock. The Toronto-based architect Frank Hamilton, working with the design firm Cecconi Simone, spent four years on the

residence, which was completed in 2013. With the goal of achieving complete privacy, the creators fashioned a structure with angled roofs on multiple levels; it fans out from a central core that contains the spacious living areas. These include a large living room with panoramic views, an indoor/outdoor dining area, and a well-equipped modern kitchen. An offshoot wing holds the master suite with its own terrace, outdoor shower, and hot tub. On the other side of the core, three guest suites occupy separate mini-villas, each with a private terrace, sitting area, and kitchenette. The uncluttered interiors are furnished with Balinese elements for a meditative ambience. [KAREN CAKEBREAD]

Rates: \$17,500 to \$24,500 weekly. Contact: Wimco, 800.449.1553, wimco.com (Wimco code: Villa Ric Kis)



THIERRY DEMOIVE



CARIBBEAN AND ATLANTIC

THE NEWEST MANGUSTA 165 Evolution yacht, *Moonraker*, made a splash at its Monaco Yacht Show debut last fall and is now available for charter. The 165-foot superyacht's graceful yet aggressively taut bearing is supported by three MTU/Kamewa engines that can propel it to a top speed of 40 knots. Equally impressive is the sophisticated interior, which is credited to the Italian boatbuilder Overmarine's in-house designers Maxim Tissenbaum and Trevor Kruse. The gleaming surfaces—a medley of more than 250 materials, including 10 types of marble and 15 kinds of wood—create a visual effect that is creamy, shiny, and opulent. The light-filled main saloon is a draw for passengers, with

a five-stool bar topped with tigereye marble, a drop-down television and state-of-the-art sound system, and a dining area illuminated by five skylights and featuring wine storage for nearly 100 bottles. Below the saloon, four cabins accommodate eight guests, while the deep wall-to-wall sofa in the cinema room converts to a bed for two additional passengers, who can use the bathroom facilities in the gym across the companionway. For sport, *Moonraker* is equipped with an assortment of personal watercraft and water toys, and there is a crew of nine. [K.C.]

Rates: From \$217,000 weekly. *Contact:* Burgess, Miami, 305.672.0150, charter@burgessyachts.com, burgessyachts.com

VALLE D'ITRIA, ITALY

IN CENTURIES PAST, the Puglia region's conical-roofed stone *trulli* usually housed rural laborers, but today their charming appearance makes some of the rustic huts desirable candidates for restoration projects. One of these is Trullo Pinnacolo, the work of the Parisian architect and interior designer Fabrice Bejjani, who expanded on the original form with a *lamia*, another Puglian-style structure with a cubic shape that harks back to the area's Greek settlers. The combination translates to cozy spaces in the thick-walled *trullo* that open up into modern living and dining areas, with six en suite bedrooms in the new block that accommodate 12 guests. The chlorine-free pool is lined with black mosaic tile to capture the sun's heat, but the villa is designed to optimize the cooling effects of the shade as the sun moves throughout



the day. The grounds are dotted with olive trees, and amenities include a variety of services, from housekeeping to fitness instruction. [K.C.]

Rates: \$10,033 to \$16,392 weekly. Contact: Think Puglia, 800.490.1107, thethinkingtraveller.com/thinkpuglia






PORT D'ANDRATX, SPAIN

COMPLETED IN 2014, this rambling residence of more than 10,000 square feet hugs a Majorcan hillside and overlooks the Balearic Sea. Thanks to the use of traditional Majorcan elements, such as Santanyí stone for the exterior facade and walls, terra-cotta



tiles on the roof, and indigenous plants in the landscaping, the expansive estate blends with its natural surroundings. In counterpoint to tradition are modern elements including high-end home automation and sound systems inside and out. The villa sleeps 12 in six bedrooms with en suite bathrooms, and there are two kitchens, a living room with a fireplace and bar, a dining room with sea and garden views, a fitness and spa area with a sauna, and a wine cellar. Outside, terraces frame an infinity pool, and an outdoor kitchen and dining area and a Jacuzzi provide spots where guests can gather and relax. The garage has a turntable for vehicles; for an additional fee, a car and chauffeur can be on hand. A private chef is among the property's staff. [K.C.] 

Rates: €12,500 to €35,000 (about \$14,500 to \$41,000) weekly.

Contact: Luxury Rentals from HomeAway, 631.731.1677, luxury.homeaway.com (property #2343989); Alexander Hock, +49.171.5353975, villapuestadelisol@gmx.com

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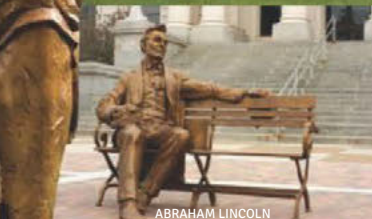
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Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty
Elizabeth Hudgins | 904.553.2032 | www.beacheshomes.com



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Beautiful sunrises from this exceptional custom home with 5 bedrooms, 6 full and 3 half baths on a high bluff offering expansive ocean views. One owner.

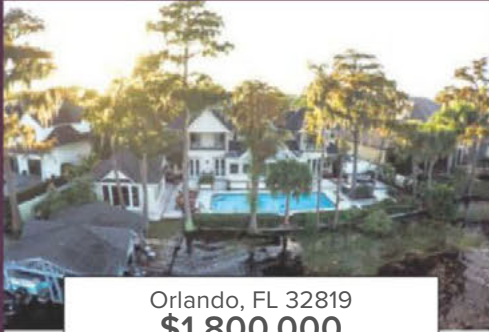
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Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
\$3,500,000

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Orlando, FL 32819
\$1,800,000

Elegant Butler Chain lakefront. 5-bedroom gated Bay Hill property. 2-slip boat dock. In-law suite. 3-car garage.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Results Realty
Jan Coudriet | 407.383.3913 | jancoudriet@aol.com



Orlando, FL 32819
\$1,900,000

Bay Hill 4 Bedroom 4,878 sq ft on Butler Chain. Enclosed boat house with lift. Sea wall. Oversized garage. Poolside sunrooms.

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Virginia Beach VA 23451
\$895,000

Luxury 3,200+ sq ft home in oceanfront community with gleaming hardwood floors, spacious rooms, elevator and 2-car garage! Perfect for entertaining.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty, Jennifer K. Cool | 757.739.5859 | <http://tours.snapshotamerica.com/280149>



Houston, TX 77079
\$1,450,000

Gorgeous new construction in the Memorial area of Houston. Beautiful finishes, master suite down. Open floor plan, executive study.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Anderson Properties
Renee Davy Oakum | 713.456.9861 | www.har.com/ReneeDavy



Houston, TX 77025
\$1,715,000

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Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Anderson Properties
Ray Walker | 281.687.8429 | walker.ray@comcast.net



Colleyville, TX 76034
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Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
\$10,495,000

East Coast Traditional with 8 bedrooms and 10 baths in prime Huntington Palisades with ocean and mountain views. AlmaRealDrive.com

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties
Gary Glass | 310.820.9343 | gary@garyglassestates.com



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Santa Barbara, CA 93103
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New quality custom 4 bedrooms, 4 baths with panoramic views, privacy and quiet on the Riviera. www.20AlisalRoad.com

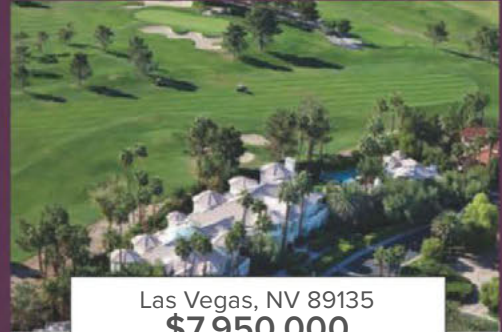
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Millbrook, NY 12545
\$15,750,000

Sky Blue Farm. Spectacular 145-acre Hunt Country estate. World-class equestrian, pool, tennis, spa, gym, theater. Guesthouse, staff quarters. Stunning vistas!

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South Haven, MI 49090
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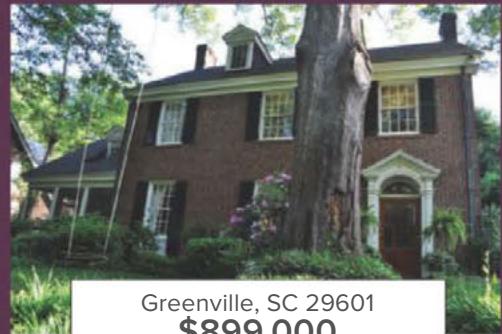
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John Rice | 616.951.4663 | www.johnricerealtor.com



Corydon, IA
\$1,325,000

80 acres, 7,000 sq ft main residence, care takers home, log cabin retreat, carriage apartment. 3 barns plus artist studio. 30 minutes to Louisville, KY

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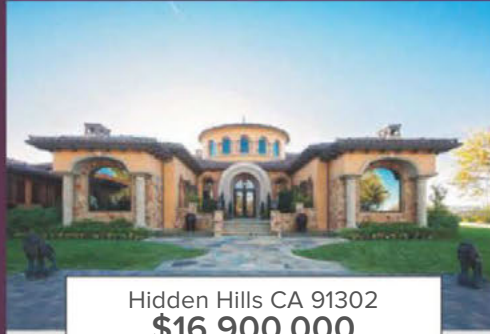
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8 Bedrooms, 11 ½ baths, gourmet kitchen, theater, game and bonus rooms, wine cellar, gym. Elevator, pool, spa, 10-car garage.

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Hidden Hills CA 91302
\$16,900,000

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\$14,295,000

Brand new one-story, 6 bedrooms, 6 ½ baths, chef's kitchen, theater, game room, study. Master with retreat. Infinity edge pool, spa.

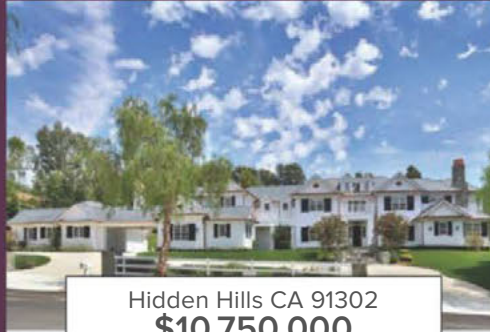
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Hidden Hills CA 91302
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Spectacular, 8 bedrooms, 10 baths, guest house. Kitchen open to family room. Dining room, theater, study. Covered loggia, pool, spa.

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Hidden Hills CA 91302
\$10,750,000

6 Bedrooms, 10 baths, chef's kitchen-open to family room, theater, game room, office, living & dining rooms. Pool, spa, yards, patios.

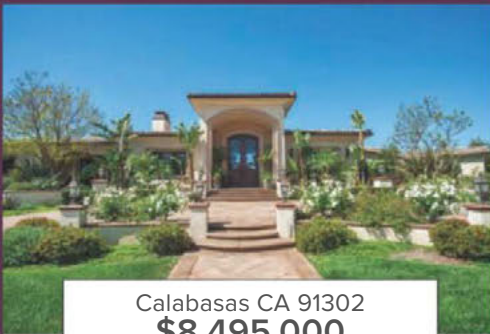
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Hidden Hills CA 91302
\$8,500,000

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Calabasas CA 91302
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Hidden Hills CA 91302
\$7,395,000

Beautiful, 5 bedrooms, 8 baths, gourmet kitchen, family/game room, office, theater room. Master with retreat. Pool, spa, grassy yards.

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Calabasas CA 91302
\$3,999,000

Stunning views. 5 Bedrooms, 5 ½ baths, gourmet kitchen, office, bonus room. Pool, spa, 2 fire pits, sports court, lush lawns.

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Wellington, Florida: This 20 stall barn with amazing owners' lounge has full kitchen, family room and a private bath overlooking the 200' x 100' all-weather ring. **\$10,750,000**

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Los Cabos, BCS Mexico: Casa Ventana al Cielo. A contemporary masterpiece perched on a hill overlooking the Pacific Ocean with 6+ bedrooms, elevator, gym, lap pool, and 9,000+ square feet of construction. **\$5,600,000**

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Naples, Florida: Platinum LEED Certified Estate in Coquina Sands. Over 4,000 square feet of luxury in this one-of-a-kind home. Italian-designed Chic European décor from Antonio Lupi & Christian Andrea. **\$2,900,000**

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Winter Park, Florida: Beautiful Mediterranean-style contemporary in the Park North neighborhood of Winter Park, Florida in zip code 32789. 6 bedrooms, 4 baths, 5,169 square feet. Built in 1991. **\$1,499,000**

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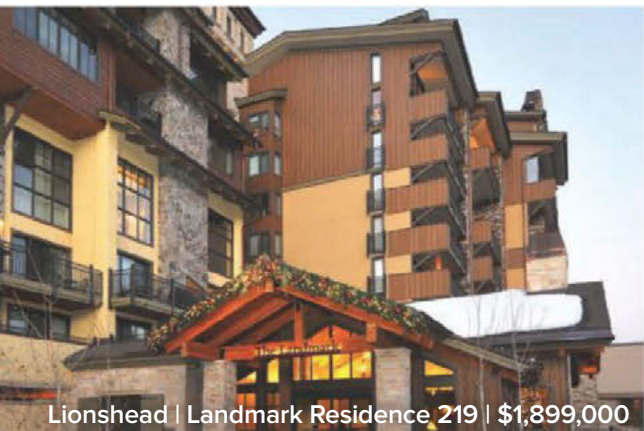
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4 Bedroom | 6 Bath | 5,212 sq. ft. | Awe inspiring views
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Beaver Creek Resort | 276 Borders Road | \$5,995,000

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Vail | 1475 Buffehr Creek Road | \$5,100,000

4 Bedroom | 6 Bath | 5,311 sq. ft. | Gore Range and Vail mountain views
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Beaver Creek | 50 Bachelor Gulch Road | \$2,395,000

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King City, ON
#N3087049**

5+1 14 16,000
BR BA SQ FT

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2.3-acre lot. Extraordinary residence! Luxurious country living in prestigious Fairfield Estates. One of the best Lorne Rose projects. Contact 905-731-2000.



\$3,388,000

**1233 Donlea Cres
Oakville, ON
#W3086979**

4+1 7 4,400
BR BA SQ FT

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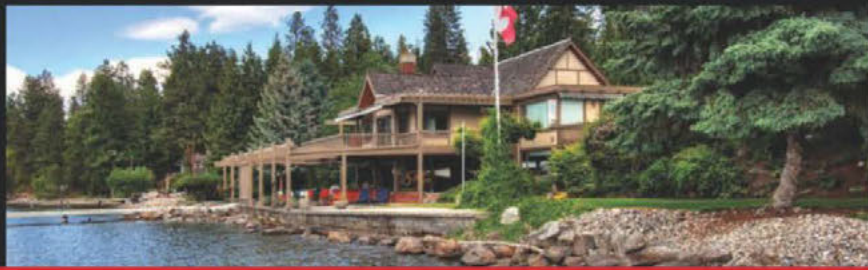
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**21 Balmuto St, PH3501
Toronto, ON
EXCLUSIVE**

3+2 4 3,907
BR BA SQ FT

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3 4 3,730
BR BA SQ FT

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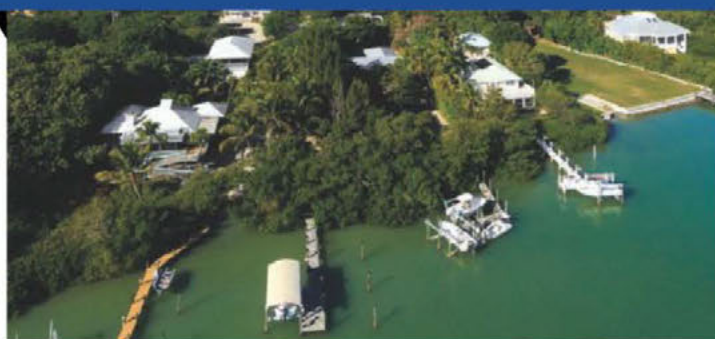
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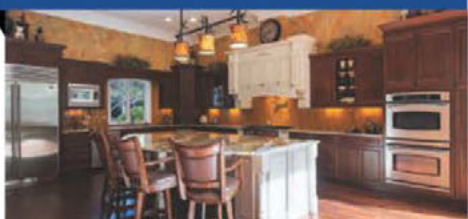
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New waterfront 5BR, 5BA home in Sears Point area with a private beach on Oyster Pond River, designed and built by Polhemus Savery DaSilva Architects Builders. Spanning over 4,600 sf, the open floor plan boasts an exquisite chef's kitchen, dining and family room, private study and first-floor en-suite master bedroom with water views. Two spacious en-suite bedrooms with views and two additional bedrooms with a shared bath occupy the second floor. Beautifully landscaped grounds are set on over an acre of land that offers privacy and the opportunity for a full-size pool. \$3,695,000



Designed and built by Polhemus Savery DaSilva, this new 4BR, 4.5BA residence in Chatham's Old Village offers beautiful water views and in-town living. Including more than 3,000 sf, the home's open floor plan includes a great room, chef's kitchen, study, dining room, first-floor bedroom suite with a full bath, an additional half bath, a laundry/mud room with an adjacent outdoor shower, and a classic front porch. The upper level invites relaxed living and includes a spacious master suite, two bedrooms, and two baths, all with idyllic vistas. Includes a two-car garage. \$2,350,000



Set high above the road on a rolling lawn with views of Chatham Harbor and steps to Claflin Landing, this classic Cape-style condominium offers a historical character with all the modern amenities. The main level offers an open floor plan with a great room that opens to a circular terrace facing the Atlantic, a fireplaced family room, and a charming first-floor bedroom. The second level features the master suite with spectacular views and an additional bedroom. Below is a studio with bath and separate entrance. \$1,999,000



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Bright Ideas

The often complex and always compelling brainchildren of Barber & Osgerby

✱ **The British designers** Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby knew from the outset that their striking Iris table (shown above) would have to be a limited edition. Named for its resemblance to the iris of an eye, each table comprises individual segments of aluminum that were painstakingly anodized with color and then assembled beneath a clear glass top. “It looks simple when you see them, but they’re a lot of work,” says Barber, who cofounded Barber & Osgerby (B&O) in London 19 years ago. Thus, the production run was capped at 60: five colors, 12 tables in each. “If we knew at the beginning how hard it would be to produce,” he says, “we probably wouldn’t have done it.”

The gray version of the table, an example of which appears in a New England home featured in this issue

(see “Positively Beaming,” page 54 at top), proved especially challenging due to the softness and subtleties of the hues used. “With the multicolored ones, if a segment didn’t come out perfect—a bit too dark or a bit too light—that was OK,” says Barber. “But with the gray, it would completely ruin the run of the fade.”

Released in 2007, the Iris tables are hard to come by. Easier to obtain are the innovative furnishings that Barber and Osgerby dream up for companies such as Vitra (vitra.com), whose new B&O-designed Planophore (price forthcoming; Vitra is accepting preorders) features rotating vertical aluminum panels that transform the unit into a bookshelf, a screen, or a piece for displaying art. Just as flexible is B&O’s Mariposa sofa (shown below; from \$7,520), also for Vitra, with an adjustable back and sides and colors ranging from neutrals to cheerful lemon yellow. [SHEILA GIBSON STOODLEY] **H&S**

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